



# LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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March 17, 2020

The Honorable Steve Scalise  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2049 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

***Re: Direct Relief for Healthcare Providers During COVID-19 Response***

Dear Congressman Scalise:

On behalf of our more than 150-member hospitals and health systems, the Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) thanks you for supporting Louisiana's ongoing response to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Louisiana hospitals stand on the frontlines providing care for increasing numbers of patients who are testing positive for COVID-19. We appreciate the support our federal leaders have shown thus far providing funding to public health agencies. We also need Congress to ensure our hospitals have the resources and staff needed to support hospital operations. Congress should consider a comprehensive funding strategy that helps healthcare providers remain viable and receive direct support for preparedness and response.

Potential solutions to help offset expenses directly related to the treatment of patients with COVID-19 include:

- Direct reimbursement of capital expenditures to create new and expanded testing and screening sites for COVID-19 patients, including the costs associated with relocating existing services to open more hospital beds to COVID-19 patients;
- Direct reimbursements for supplies to protect facilities and staff from the spread of disease;
- Direct reimbursements for supplies and pharmaceuticals for the treatment of COVID-19 patients;
- A 10 percent increase in inpatient and outpatient Medicare rates;
- A 10 percent federally-funded increase in Medicaid rates;
- A prevention of the scheduled Medicaid DSH cuts; and
- A withdrawal of the Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Rule.

Additional funding will help preserve patients' access to needed hospital services as we respond to this unprecedented event. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your outreach to hospitals in your district as they navigate supply issues and other emerging challenges. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Salles  
President & CEO