

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Charlie Baker
Governor
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House, Room 360
Boston, MA

Dear Governor Baker,

We are writing to respectfully request that, as new federal resources become available in response to COVID-19, you prioritize the needs of community hospitals and community health centers (CHC) that primarily serve Medicaid and uncompensated care patients.

As you well know, community hospitals and CHCs are invaluable to traditionally underserved and low-income communities and they are on the frontlines of this national public health crisis. However, a number of them are operating at significant losses and with few reserves to absorb further financial setbacks. In particular, we are concerned that independent community hospitals have extremely limited cash reserves. It is crucial that these hospitals and community health centers receive the full extent of support available to ensure that they can continue to provide critical, high-quality care in this time of strain.

Congress recently passed H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*, which was signed into law by the President on March 18. Among other critical provisions, the bill includes a temporary 6.2 percentage point boost in the federal matching rate for Medicaid, which would be in effect until the end of this public health emergency. We know that this funding will provide critical assistance during this difficult time and are working to ensure that additional resources become available to the Commonwealth to sustain our health care infrastructure, especially for community hospitals and CHCs that are under tremendous financial duress.

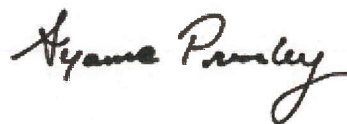
We hope that the additional Medicaid funding will provide some immediate relief for Massachusetts. However, we know that more resources are needed. As Congress works to develop a third package to assist with the crisis, we hope that your Administration will do its utmost to ensure that our community hospitals and CHCs have the support that they need.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you to address this public health emergency.

Sincerely,



Lori Trahan
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Ayanna Pressley
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Edward J. Markey
UNITED STATES SENATOR

Elizabeth Warren
UNITED STATES SENATOR

Richard E. Neal
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

James P. McGovern
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Stephen Lynch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

William R. Keating
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Katherine Clark
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Seth Moulton
MEMBER OF CONGRESS