



October 26, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy, and Schumer:

On behalf of the undersigned health care providers, thank you for your leadership in your efforts to keep Americans safe and to support struggling health care providers as we care for patients and families amid the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. As we prepare for a second wave of COVID-19 cases in the U.S., we request that Congress extend the suspension of the 2% Medicare sequestration payment reductions through the public health emergency period.

Earlier this month, U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Azar declared an extension of the public health emergency into 2021. The moratorium on the sequester payment reductions has allowed for uninterrupted care for millions of Americans by supporting health care providers across the nation which are experiencing lost revenues and extraordinary expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, that suspension is only in effect until December 31, 2020.

Absent this relief, some providers may not be able to stay afloat especially in rural and underserved areas. Additionally, circumstances and needs for health care providers are changing on a daily basis during the pandemic. Given the continuing crisis, it is imperative that any future COVID-19 legislative package include resources to address the financial viability of providers,

protect patient and staff safety, and mitigate losses to ensure access to care throughout the crisis and into the future.

Thank you for your consideration of extending the moratorium on the potentially devastating sequester payment reductions for Medicare providers and for your continued leadership during this national public health emergency.

Sincerely,

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

Kidney Care Partners

LeadingAge

Visiting Nurse Associations of America/ElevatingHOME