The Provider Relief Fund (PRF) authorized under the CARES Act has helped to provide America’s health care providers with the resources needed to deliver essential public services during the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds have been deployed to help protect the safety of frontline providers and patients, and in many cases, have helped enable providers to keep their doors open.

On September 19, 2020, the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) announced changes to the PRF reporting requirements that could force many hospitals and other providers to return some of this vital funding and jeopardize patients’ access to care while the nation continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. This represents an about-face from the stipulations that HHS outlined months ago, which providers based their planning upon during an already tumultuous fiscal environment. HHS should return to PRF reporting requirements established on June 19, 2020.

Congress has acted several times this year to add funding for the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund to reimburse health care providers for COVID-19-related health care expenses and lost revenues. Eligible providers are required to submit reports and maintain documentation to ensure compliance with payment rules. On June 19, HHS released a frequently asked question defining lost revenue as any revenue lost due to COVID-19 and said providers should “use any reasonable method of estimating the revenue during March and April 2020 compared to the same period had COVID-19 not appeared.” Providers applied for and budgeted the use of PRF funds based on this HHS guidance. However, on September 19, HHS changed the definition of lost revenue, placing many struggling providers in an untenable situation. Now, funding is only accessible for COVID-19-related expenses and lost revenue up to the amount of a provider’s 2019 net patient operating income. This change will dramatically reduce the amount of lost revenue providers can claim, create a massive administrative burden, and may force many struggling providers to return some of their payments.

This sudden and dramatic shift has created numerous problems for the nation’s hospitals at the very same time they continue to be our first line of defense against the COVID-19 pandemic. We therefore urge you to reinstate the June 19 requirements so that our frontline providers are able to focus their full resources on protecting the health and safety of the communities they serve.
Sincerely,

David B. McKinley P.E.
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress

Mike Levin
Member of Congress

Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress

Tom O’Halleran
Member of Congress

/s/
A. Drew Ferguson IV, DMD
Member of Congress

/s/
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

/s/
Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress

/s/
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

/s/
Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

/s/
Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress

/s/
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

/s/
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress

/s/
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

/s/
Andy Barr
Member of Congress
Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress

Bryan Steil  
Member of Congress

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond  
Member of Congress

Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

Chris Jacobs  
Member of Congress

Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress

Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress

Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress

Dan Meuser  
Member of Congress

Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress

Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

David E. Price  
Member of Congress

David Kustoff  
Member of Congress
David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress

/s/  
David Trone  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Denver Riggleman  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Don Bacon  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Donna E. Shalala  
Member of Congress

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Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ed Case  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress

5
Fred Keller  
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Fred Upton  
Member of Congress

French Hill  
Member of Congress

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Gary Palmer  
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Harley Rouda  
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Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress

James Comer  
Member of Congress
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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>James R. Baird, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>James R. Langevin</td>
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<td>Jared Golden</td>
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<td>Jerry McNerney</td>
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<td>Jesús G. &quot;Chuy&quot; García</td>
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<td>John Carter</td>
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John Curtis
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
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John H. Rutherford
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John Katko
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John R. Moolenaar
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Peter J. Visclosky  
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Mike Simpson  
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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
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Ralph Norman  
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Member of Congress

Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

/s/
Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress

Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

/s/
Sam Graves
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

/s/
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
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Rob Bishop
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Scott Peters
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/s/
Sharice L. Davids
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Roger Williams
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/s/
Stephanie Murphy
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Ron Kind
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/s/
Stephen F. Lynch
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Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

/s/
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Ross Spano
Member of Congress

/s/
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

/s/
Steve Womack
Member of Congress
/s/ Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress

/s/ Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

/s/ Susie Lee  
Member of Congress

/s/ Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress

/s/ Ted Deutch  
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/s/ Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

/s/ Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

/s/ Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress

/s/ Tim Burchett  
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/s/ Tim Ryan  
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/s/ TJ Cox  
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/s/ Tom Cole  
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/s/ Tom Rice  
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/s/ Tony Cárdenas  
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/s/ Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress

/s/ Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress

/s/ Val B. Demings  
Member of Congress

/s/ Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress

/s/ Veronica Escobar  
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/s/ Vicente Gonzalez  
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/s/ Vicky Hartzler  
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Will Hurd
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William R. Keating
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Wm. Lacy Clay
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Xochitl Torres Small
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Yvette D. Clarke
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/s/
Zoe Lofgren
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