April 28, 2021

***SUBJECT: Support H.R. 2455, The Resetting the IMPACT Act of 2021***

Dear Members of the California Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of our more than 400 member hospitals and health systems, including approximately 80 inpatient rehabilitation facilities, 100 distinct-part skilled-nursing facilities, 16 long-term care hospitals, and numerous home health agencies, the California Hospital Association (CHA) writes to express our support for The Resetting the IMPACT Act (TRIA) of 2021 — H.R. 2455, which has been introduced in Congress by Reps. Terri Sewell (D-AL) and Vern Buchanan (R-FL). We encourage all members of the California delegation to cosponsor H.R. 2455.

CHA strongly supports the IMPACT Act of 2014, including its thoughtful approach to identifying and collecting critical information for the design of a unified post-acute care (PAC) prospective payment system. Since its enactment, CHA and its member acute and PAC providers have been involved in the IMPACT Act’s implementation, including participating in technical expert panels and research and training activities.

However, since the IMPACT Act’s passage in 2014, payment systems and regulations have undergone comprehensive changes that affect PAC providers at all levels, including changes to patient admission criteria, assessment measures, and quality reporting. Data collected prior to these reforms do not reflect the current configuration of PAC services and should not be used to inform future payment policy.

Additionally, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has severely disrupted health care delivery throughout the continuum of care. The public health emergency has impacted multiple aspects of care delivery, including patient care needs, resource use, and patient outcomes. These factors underscore the need to allow additional time for data collection and analysis to inform payment reform. TRIA would require the exclusion of data collected prior to the recent PAC payment systems’ reforms, as well as during the COVID-19 pandemic. This would allow for the collection and use of current, more relevant data to inform future PAC payment policy that will support access to care and appropriate use of resources.

The pandemic has brought into focus the need to refresh the mandate of the IMPACT Act and to slow down the process of PAC payment reform. Such a “reset” will allow for a new payment model to incorporate the most recent and relevant data, and to reflect insights from the COVID-19 pandemic.

We appreciate your support for California’s hospitals and PAC centers and the patients they care for and look forward to working together to ensure passage of this legislation. To cosponsor H.R. 2455, please contact Earl Flood at Earl.Flood@mail.house.gov in Rep. Sewell’s office or Don Green at Don.Green@mail.house.gov in Rep. Buchanan’s office.

Sincerely,

/s/

Anne O’Rourke

Senior Vice President, Federal Relations