



**CALIFORNIA
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION**

*Providing Leadership in
Health Policy and Advocacy*

May 13, 2020

Dear Members of the California Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the 40 million Californians who rely on our state's hospitals and health systems, thank you for your commitment to supporting our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and protecting patients and health care workers.

Hospitals answered the call on COVID-19 quickly with an unprecedented response. They immediately stood up additional capacity, purchased protective and clinical equipment, hired additional staff, and suspended many non-emergency services. These actions mean that even the most conservative estimates put California hospitals' short-term losses over the first few months at more than \$10 billion. As hospitals continue to stand ready should a second wave of COVID-19 strike, these enormous operational and resource challenges are straining hospitals unlike ever before. Without additional support, Californians' access to care is in jeopardy.

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated California's economy, and hospitals are no exception. In many ways, they have increased their spending to accommodate more patients while seeing substantial revenue losses. Without federal aid to offset these losses and forthcoming reductions in the state budget, patients and communities will suffer. Hospitals are facing not only a financial crisis, but also a public health and pandemic response crisis. They need an immediate and substantial financial lifeline.

The Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act, H.R. 6800, as introduced, will take an enormous step toward ensuring that California's hospitals can continue to support patient care, sustain our workforce, and preserve our health care infrastructure. **We urge your support of the HEROES Act.**

As we have watched the first few allocations from the provider relief fund, we are disappointed that on a per capita basis, California ranks near the bottom of dollars received and note that several states at the top of that list have seen very few COVID patients. A different allocation is clearly needed and we are pleased to see such efforts in the HEROES Act. The HEROES Act will increase and more fairly distribute federal funds to directly reimburse the costs of preparing for the pandemic and recognize the billions of dollars health care providers are losing as they have drastically reduced services. The HEROES Act is key to providing additional resources to help hospitals continue to deliver the high-quality care Californians deserve. The stability of our health care delivery system depends on this additional and focused funding.

As our state works to climb out from the economic and societal devastation wrought by COVID-19, it is vital that its hospitals — and the health care safety net they provide — are secure. We cannot reignite our state's economy, the largest in the nation, without this critical health care safety net.

Thank you for your continued support and attention to the needs of California's hospitals and the patients and communities entrusted to their care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carmela Coyle".

Carmela Coyle
President & CEO