

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

We respectfully request that the Department of Health and Human Services move as swiftly as possible to distribute remaining Provider Relief Funds to hospitals and providers based on COVID-related losses and expenses during the third and fourth quarters of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021.

As you know, hospitals across our state and country have worked tirelessly to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While rising vaccination rates have sent deaths, hospitalizations, and case counts plummeting far below their peaks, this crisis is not over — as demonstrated by the recent and continuing spread of the Delta variant — and many hospitals in our state suffered their greatest losses of the pandemic during the second half of last year. There remains a multi-billion-dollar gap between the losses experienced and federal support received by these providers.

With this in mind, we respectfully ask that any remaining Provider Relief Funds be expeditiously made available to providers based on losses suffered during the second half of 2020 and first quarter of 2021. These funds were intended to be a lifeline to hospitals and providers throughout the pandemic, and the remaining portion is critical to ensuring that hospitals can continue the fight against COVID and ultimately restore normal operations.

Sincerely,