



November 22, 2021

*Sent electronically*

Dear Members of the California Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of California's more than 400 hospitals and health systems, I write to urge your support for the **Provider Relief Fund Improvement Act, H.R. 5963**, to provide needed flexibility for hospitals to make the best use of available federal funding as they continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

California's hospitals continue to incur significant COVID-19-related expenses that have not been adequately covered by the Provider Relief Funds distributed to date. All told, the state's hospitals lost an estimated \$8 billion in 2020, after factoring in federal relief, and are [projected to lose another \\$2 billion in 2021](#). Making matters worse, because of the upcoming reporting deadline, some hospitals may be required to return funds by December 30 that they may ultimately need. This, while more than [\\$26.8 billion](#) in relief funds remains unspent.

While we are grateful for the federal relief funds that have been made available to hospitals, the bipartisan H.R. 5963 would offer hospitals additional urgently needed funds and the financial flexibility that is essential to the ongoing pandemic response. This crucial legislation extends the time hospitals have to use Provider Relief Funds and requires the distribution of any remaining funds by March 31, 2022. Importantly for California, the time period covered under this distribution would include expenses resulting from the delta variant surge.

Thank you for your continued support of California's hospitals and the patients they care for. If you have questions about our concerns, please contact Anne O'Rourke, senior vice president, federal relations, at [aorourke@calhospital.org](mailto:aorourke@calhospital.org) or (202) 488-4494.

Sincerely,

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

Carmela Coyle  
President & CEO