As Pandemic Persists, Hospitals Need State, Federal Support

Throughout the deadly global pandemic, California’s hospitals have responded with an unyielding commitment to care for their communities. Their unprecedented response came with unprecedented costs:

- Increased staff turnover at 78% of hospitals
- Billions in emergency loans
- Operating margins down 86.2%
- Expenses per adjusted day up 11%

Since the pandemic began, California hospitals have cared for an average of 5,600 patients a day, including a daily average of 1,400 ICU patients.

To continue caring for all Californians who need them, hospitals need:

- Additional federal funds for COVID-19 relief
- Equitable distribution of Provider Relief Funding for hard-hit areas
- Rapidly available state flexibilities to help mitigate the workforce crisis and any future surges
- A full-year extension of the moratorium on the Medicare sequester, which could cost California hospitals $200 million in 2022

Federal funds fall short of the relief California hospitals need

California’s hospitals have lost an estimated $20 billion due to the pandemic in 2020 and 2021.