**Email subject line: Access to Care is Compromised by Discharge Delays**

Dear Rep. (INSERT REPRESENTATIVE’S NAME HERE):

It’s been a trying two years, with hospitals at the forefront of patient care.

Hospitals, including (NAME OF YOUR HOSPITAL), have labored under increasingly difficult conditions to care for everyone who comes through their doors. However, in some cases, there are patients who are ready to leave the hospital and are forced to stay longer than they should. This strains and threatens services other patients need, as limited resources are spread thin due to these discharge delays.

Fortunately, Congress can help hospitals cope with the financial burden created by the discharge delays with a temporary, per diem payment targeted to hospitals. A temporary, per diem payment would provide much-needed financial assistance while we work to address the root causes of these delays.

There are many reasons why discharge delays happen. Staffing shortages in post-acute care settings, as well as someone’s housing status or the resources of a caregiver, play a role. Further, hospitals continue to feel the effects of the pandemic, as its impacts ripple through the market and workforce.

In fact, at (NAME OF YOUR HOSPITAL), we’ve experienced discharge delays. (ADD PERSONAL EXPERIENCE HERE.)

This problem isn’t getting better. Across California, the overall length of stay at hospitals has increased by 3% over the past two years. The length of stay for patients who need skilled-nursing care has jumped by 50% on top of that.

*That translates to 380,000 additional days — the equivalent of over 1,000 years — in acute care hospital settings.*

Hospitals receive little, if any, compensation for the care they give patients who experience discharge delays. Together with crushing inflation on items like pharmaceuticals and energy costs, some hospitals have been forced to shutter services to keep their doors open.

That’s why — in order to preserve access to care, improve patient outcomes, and continue to build a better patient experience for everyone — we urge you to support a temporary, per diem payment for hospitals.

Thank you for your continued leadership in this matter. We couldn’t do our jobs without your help in protecting hospitals and ensuring people’s access to care.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at (CONTACT INFORMATION).

Sincerely,

(NAME AND TITLE)