

July 1, 2020

## Contact Your Senators and Urge Them to Support Hospitals and Health Systems in the Next COVID-19 Relief Package

*Please reach out to your senators during the July 4 district work period*

As Congress considers additional COVID-19 relief actions, we need to make sure hospital and health systems' priorities are at the top of its list. Additional support and resources are necessary, as an [AHA study](#) released yesterday estimates that hospitals' financial losses from COVID-19 are expected to top \$323 billion in 2020.

**We expect the next legislative package to come together this month, so please contact your senators while they are home for the July 4 district work period and ask them to include a number of important provisions in the next COVID-19 relief package.**

Please urge your senators to include:

- additional support for front-line health care personnel;
- forgiveness for accelerated payments;
- maintaining health benefits for individuals and families and increasing coverage options for those who are uninsured;
- appropriate liability protections to front-line medical providers and facilities; and
- additional funding for hospitals and health systems.

More details and resources on these specific priorities and others are outlined below and available on our [AHA Action Center webpage](#).

**We've also made it easy for you to send messages to your senators – via email, phone or Twitter – and have your community engage as well. You can share this [link](#) with your community and ask them to amplify our message as well.**

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON SPECIFIC PROVISIONS CONGRESS SHOULD INCLUDE IN THE NEXT COVID-19 RELIEF PACKAGE**

- **Federal Support for Health Care Heroes.** Please urge Congress to: provide support for child care, housing, transportation and education benefits for hospital workers; provide bonus pay for hospital workers; and establish a compensation fund for COVID-19 health care workers and their families. [View the AHA resource for more details.](#)

- **Accelerated Payment Forgiveness for Hospitals.** Congress should provide for full forgiveness of Medicare accelerated payments for hospitals. Forgiving hospitals' accelerated payments will provide a necessary solution to recover and rebuild while delivering the care that patients and communities are depending on. [View the AHA resource for more details.](#)
- **Increase Health Insurance Coverage.** Congress should take action to maintain health benefits for individuals and families and increase coverage options for those who are already uninsured by: providing employer subsidies for preserving enrollment; covering COBRA costs; opening a Special Enrollment Period for Health Insurance Marketplaces; increasing eligibility for federal marketplace subsidies; expanding the period during which insurers cannot cancel coverage for non-payment of premiums; and providing charity care tax credits for hospitals. [View the AHA resource for more details.](#)
- **Federal Liability Protections.** Congress should provide appropriate liability protections for facilities and front-line medical providers treating patients amid the COVID-19 crisis, for arranging for and providing health care services, including where treatment is provided, and how best to deploy personnel, equipment and facilities. [View the AHA resource for more details.](#)
- **Funding for Hospitals and Health Systems.** Congress should provide additional funding to support hospitals and health systems. Two recent AHA reports estimate that hospitals will lose more than \$323 billion from March 2020 through December 2020 as a result of COVID-19. While Congress has provided some relief funds, additional support is needed to allow hospitals and health systems to preserve access to care in communities. [View the AHA resource for more details.](#)

### Further Questions

If you have questions, please contact AHA at 800-424-4301.