

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 4, 2023

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell:

We write to request that you address impending cuts to the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) program, which are scheduled to be enacted on October 1, 2023. These cuts will equate to \$8 billion in reductions in FY2024 alone. The Medicaid DSH program keeps many hospitals financially viable and able to provide care to vulnerable individuals. Drastic cuts to this program could lead to a reduction in access to care for those who need it most.

The Medicaid DSH program was created in 1981 to help offset uncompensated care costs for those hospitals that provide care to large numbers of Medicaid and uninsured patients. These hospitals provide critical services and serve as economic and health care anchors in their communities, as has been recently demonstrated during both natural disasters as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act required reductions to the Medicaid DSH program over time, beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2014, with the goal that the law would increase health insurance coverage and hospitals would no longer need additional payments to offset uncompensated care costs. Those coverage levels have not been fully realized yet these hospitals continue to care for uninsured and underinsured patients.

Congress has acted in a bipartisan manner on multiple occasions over the last eleven years to avert the Medicaid DSH cuts. We ask you to continue this effort and act before these reductions take place. Without legislative action, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will move forward with the Medicaid DSH reductions and our hospitals will incur an \$8 billion cut in payments for FY 2024 and \$8 billion for each of the next three years to follow. Cuts of this magnitude could undermine the financial viability of hospitals, threatening access to care for the most vulnerable Americans. It is essential that we continue to protect those who have come to rely on the services provided by Medicaid DSH hospitals.

We ask you to act as soon as possible to address the Medicaid DSH cuts to ensure our nation's hospitals can continue to care for every community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



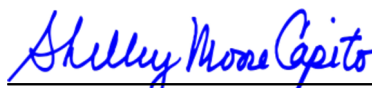
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



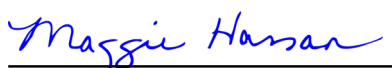
Thom Tillis
United States Senator



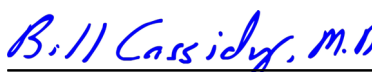
Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



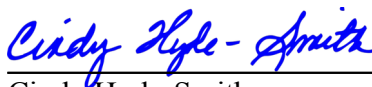
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



John Fetterman
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Katie Boyd Britt
United States Senator



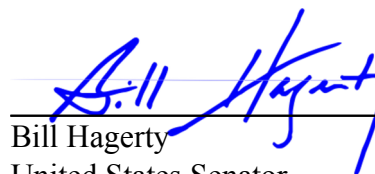
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



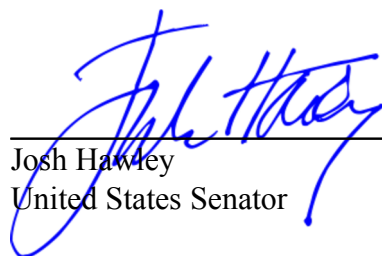
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



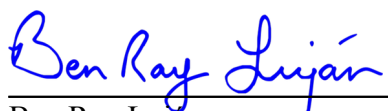
Bill Hagerty
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



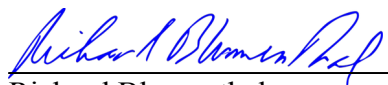
Josh Hawley
United States Senator



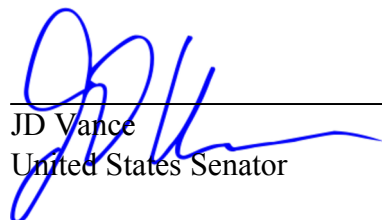
Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



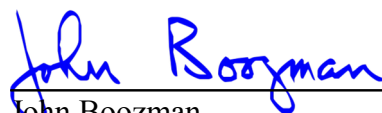
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



JD Vance
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



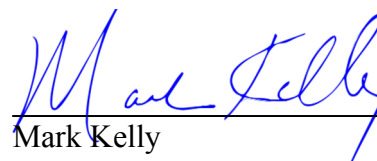
Peter Welch
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



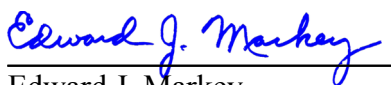
Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



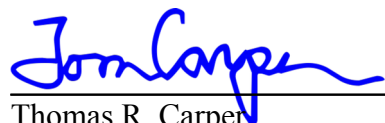
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



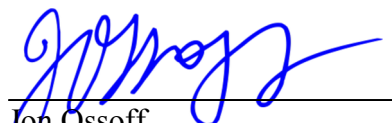
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



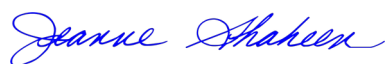
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark R. Warner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being the most prominent.

Mark R. Warner

United States Senator