



**Minnesota Hospital Association**

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Sept. 29, 2020

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
U.S. Senate  
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tina Smith  
U.S. Senate  
720 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Hagedorn  
U.S. House of Representatives  
325 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1523 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dean Phillips  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1305 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2256 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ilhan Omar  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1517 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Emmer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
315 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2204 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Stauber  
U.S. House of Representatives  
126 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Subject: U.S. Department of Health and Humans Services reporting requirements released on September 19, 2020**

Dear members of the Minnesota congressional delegation:

Thank you for your continued support for Minnesota hospitals and health systems during this unprecedented pandemic. I write today to offer insight on new reporting requirements issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on Sept. 19, 2020, and to request that you contact HHS Secretary Alex Azar to encourage the Department to rescind these new requirements.

Minnesota hospital and health systems have appreciated the critical Provider Relief Fund (PRF) grants that have been issued to health care providers in all communities throughout the state. While these grants have provided crucial funds to hospitals and health systems, they also come with important reporting requirements for our members.

The new reporting requirements released on Sept. 19, 2020, differ substantially from the initial requirements released on June 19, 2020, and change how health care providers document lost revenue as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under previous guidance from HHS, health care providers calculated lost revenue by comparing 2020 revenue with budgeted revenue or with revenue from 2019. Under the new guidelines, providers are required to use net operating income to calculate lost revenue.

These new guidelines do not merely impact the method for the reporting. Instead, they essentially change the nature and extent of the relief already granted.

This pandemic has stretched our hospitals, health systems and health care workers to unprecedented levels. While the PRF has distributed crucial relief to health care providers across the United States, the latest guidance from HHS fundamentally changes how hospitals are able to use these funds and threatens to wipe out the needed assistance that was provided to our state's hospitals. For some of our members, the latest change could potentially make them return the funds used to treat patients and address this pandemic. We need our health care providers' undivided attention focused on treating patients instead of spending time and resources on new, burdensome reporting requirements.

Again, we are grateful for the support that Congress has already provided, but these reporting requirement changes will have significant consequences for Minnesota hospitals and the care they continue to provide.

Thank you for continued partnership and for considering the request to contact Secretary Azar regarding the unintended consequences of the new reporting guidelines on Minnesota hospitals and health systems. Your assistance has been instrumental to ensuring we keep our health care system strong during and after this unprecedented national emergency.

Sincerely,

*R. Koranne.*

Rahul Koranne, M.D., MBA, FACP  
President & CEO