



Charles N. Kahn III
President and CEO

March 6, 2024

Dear Representative:

On behalf of hospitals across the country and the patients we serve, the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH) writes to express our support for the bipartisan *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024* and the health care provisions contained within. In addition to funding federal agencies, this legislation supports hospital patients in communities across the country by extending several critical expiring health care policies. These provisions will ensure continued 24/7 access to high-quality hospital care for all individuals regardless of their ability to pay. We urge you to **VOTE YES on the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024*** to provide certainty and stability to hospitals serving patients across the country.

FAH is the national representative of more than 1,000 leading tax-paying hospitals and health systems throughout the United States. Our members provide patients and communities with access to high-quality, affordable care in both urban and rural areas across 46 states, plus Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico. Our members include teaching, acute, inpatient rehabilitation, behavioral health, and long-term care hospitals and provide a wide range of inpatient, ambulatory, post-acute, emergency, children's, and cancer services.

We thank Congress for supporting vulnerable patients and hospitals serving high numbers of Medicaid and uninsured populations by eliminating the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) cuts for fiscal year 2024. Delaying these cuts is an essential step to safeguarding access to critical services for underserved patients. We look forward to continuing to work with Congress to prevent implementation of these cuts in future years.

Additionally, we applaud the short-term extension of the Medicare Dependent Hospital (MDH) and Low Volume Hospital (LVH) Adjustment Payment Programs through January 1, 2025. These programs are vital for over 60 million Americans who live in rural communities, sustaining their continued access to hospital care. Vulnerable rural hospitals often operate on slim or negative margins and this short extension highlights the need for a longer-term solution to maintain the viability of critical service lines at these facilities.

While it is disappointing to see an extension of the Medicare sequester included in the bill, we are nonetheless encouraged by the recognition that policy proposals to cut Medicare payments to hospitals, like site neutral, threaten to undermine patient access to hospital care. As Congress continues to debate the best approach to ensuring access to affordable, high-quality care in the weeks and months ahead, we welcome the opportunity to share our perspective.

Thank you for your support for local hospitals and the patients and communities they serve. Please feel free to contact Charlene MacDonald on my staff at (202) 615-0599 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charlene MacDonald". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a horizontal line underlining the name.