



ADVENTIST HEALTH
POLICY ASSOCIATION

March 23, 2020

The Honorable [Enter Name]
United States House of Representatives
[Office Address for elected official]
Washington, D.C.

Re: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES/S. 3548)

Dear [Name of Elected Official]

On behalf of the Adventist Health Policy Association (AHPA), we appreciate the opportunity to communicate with Congress concerning S.3548, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act related to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Our organization is the policy voice of five Seventh-day Adventist affiliated health systems that include 93 hospitals and more than 500 other health facilities in 16 states and the District of Columbia. AHPA represents a major segment of the U.S. hospital sector. Our member hospitals operate in a variety of settings, ranging from rural Appalachia to urban areas of California. Our providers are on the front-lines of responding to this outbreak and are committed to doing their part to address those affected and keeping our communities safe.

We greatly appreciate that the current legislation under consideration includes funding and provisions, such as funding to reimburse hospitals for COVID-19 expenses, elimination of the Medicare sequester through December 2020 and delaying the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital cuts by two years. These provisions are greatly appreciated and important to hospitals and health systems, however we believe that additional areas should be included in the package.

AHPA urges Congress to allocate **\$100 billion** to frontline health care personnel and providers and direct federal agencies to begin to infuse funds immediately so that we as providers can afford to take the necessary steps to combat COVID-19.

In addition to what is included in the legislation we also urge Congress include the following in addressing COVID-19:

- Low-interest loans to health care organizations.
- Establish supplemental advanced payments to acute care and critical access hospitals.
- Fully waive long-term care hospital regulations, including the site-neutral policy, that impede the ability to increase the capacity of the health care system without penalty.
- Reciprocal medical licensure in states.

On behalf of AHPA, thank you for considering our request and we thank you for your tireless efforts in addressing the needs of all Americans impacted during these very challenging times.

Blessings,

Carlyle Walton, FACHE
President
Adventist Health Policy Association

The Adventist Health Policy Association represents 93 Seventh-Day Adventist hospitals and over 500 other health care entities serving 16 states and the District of Columbia.

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