

March 15, 2021

The Honorable Dave Joyce
United States House of Representatives
2065 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Joyce:

On behalf of the 36 member hospitals we serve in Northeast Ohio, I am writing to thank you for the efforts by Congress to support hospitals and front-line workers this past year and to ask for your continued help by voting in support of H.R. 1868.

This bill is important to hospitals because it would prevent cuts to their Medicare reimbursement, including by eliminating through year-end the Medicare sequester cuts scheduled to take effect April 1.

Nationwide, hospitals lost an estimated \$323 billion last year due to the pandemic while at the same time they've been working tirelessly to care for patients and now, to distribute vaccines. In Northeast Ohio, hospitals conducted 12% fewer inpatient surgeries and more than 17% fewer outpatient surgeries, and had more than 17% fewer emergency department visits in 2020 compared to 2019. Northeast Ohio hospitals estimate their collective 2020 net revenues were more than \$1.125 billion below what they had budgeted for the year. This is exacerbated by additional expenses for labor, personal protective equipment and other pandemic-related needs. And we know the impacts of the pandemic are not yet over.

A recent report by the American Hospital Association indicates that even in a best-case scenario, hospital revenues in 2021 are likely to be at least \$50 billion lower than pre-pandemic levels nationwide. These losses could end up being as high as \$122 billion if the recovery takes longer due to lags in vaccination distribution or additional surges in infections.

Hospitals are grateful for the relief provided to them so far to date. However, given the extent of the losses they have experienced and are continuing to incur, at the same time that they have been battling this pandemic for a year and are continuing to lead response efforts and vaccination distribution, they still need help. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued efforts to help all of those suffering during these difficult times.

Sincerely,



Brian G. Lane
President & CEO