

March 20, 2020

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

All of America's hospitals and health systems are impacted by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic – urban hospitals, rural hospitals, investor-owned hospitals, teaching hospitals and community hospitals alike. Every hospital and health system in America is taking extraordinary efforts to prepare and respond in order to treat patients with COVID-19 and prevent spread. And all hospitals and health systems are using every available resource to do so.

The national emergency that was just enacted invokes the use of the Stafford Act of 1988, bringing critical Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance. The Stafford Act was designed to bring an orderly and systematic means of federal assistance for state and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to aid citizens. The Stafford Act prohibits investor-owned hospitals from qualifying for FEMA assistance. As has been the case in numerous noted emergencies, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Harvey, investor-owned hospitals have been on the front lines caring for patients and their communities, and responding to these emergencies with critical resources. Beyond their own expenses related to responding, investor-owned hospitals have gone above the call of duty, taking in evacuated patients, providing transportation and providing much needed supplies, just to name a few.

Just as America's hospitals and health systems are using every available resource to respond to COVID-19, the federal government should spare no resource -- it should not continue the allocation of FEMA assistance based on the status of a hospital. **We ask you to immediately designate investor-owned hospitals as an "essential service provider" under Section 427 of the Stafford Act and allow FEMA to assist these critical hospitals that are on the front lines of providing care to COVID-19 patient and preventing the virus from spreading.**

Thank you for your continued actions to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

/s/

Richard J. Pollack  
President and CEO

