

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, H-222
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy and Leader Schumer:

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 enacted by the President 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. The



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American Hospital Association urges Congress to modernize the Stafford Act as part of its next COVID-19 legislative package to allow all hospitals to recoup financial losses from this pandemic and future disasters.

Sincerely,

/s/

Richard J. Pollack
President and CEO
American Hospital Association