Dear Secretary Azar:

The Provider Relief Fund (PRF) authorized under the CARES Act has helped to provide America’s health care providers with the resources needed to deliver essential public services during the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds have been deployed to help protect the safety of frontline providers and patients, and in many cases, have helped enable providers to keep their doors open.

On September 19, 2020, the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) announced changes to the PRF reporting requirements that could force many hospitals and other providers to return some of this vital funding and jeopardize patients’ access to care while the nation continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. This represents an about-face from the stipulations that HHS outlined months ago, which providers based their planning upon during an already tumultuous fiscal environment. HHS should return to PRF reporting requirements established on June 19, 2020.

Congress has acted several times this year to add funding for the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund to reimburse health care providers for COVID-19-related health care expenses and lost revenues. Eligible providers are required to submit reports and maintain documentation to ensure compliance with payment rules. On June 19, HHS released a frequently asked question defining lost revenue as any revenue lost due to COVID-19 and said providers should “use any reasonable method of estimating the revenue during March and April 2020 compared to the same period had COVID-19 not appeared.” Providers applied for and budgeted the use of PRF funds based on this HHS guidance. However, on September 19, HHS changed the definition of lost revenue, placing many struggling providers in an untenable situation. Now, funding is only accessible for COVID-19-related expenses and lost revenue up to the amount of a provider’s 2019 net patient operating income. This change will dramatically reduce the amount of lost revenue providers can claim, create a massive administrative burden, and may force many struggling providers to return some of their payments.

This sudden and dramatic shift has created numerous problems for the nation’s hospitals at the very same time they continue to be our first line of defense against the COVID-19 pandemic. We therefore urge you to reinstate the June 19 requirements so that our frontline providers are able to focus their full resources on protecting the health and safety of the communities they serve.
Sincerely,

David B. McKinley P.E.
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress

Mike Levin
Member of Congress

Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress

Tom O’Halleran
Member of Congress

/s/
A. Drew Ferguson IV, DMD
Member of Congress

/s/
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

/s/
Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress

/s/
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

/s/
Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

/s/
Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress

/s/
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

/s/
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress

/s/
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

/s/
Andy Barr
Member of Congress
/s/ Andy Levin
Member of Congress

/s/ Angie Craig
Member of Congress

/s/ Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

/s/ Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress

/s/ Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

/s/ Austin Scott
Member of Congress

/s/ Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

/s/ Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

/s/ Ben Cline
Member of Congress

/s/ Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Foster
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Billy Long
Member of Congress

/s/ Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

/s/ Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

/s/ Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress

/s/ Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

/s/ Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress

/s/ Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

/s/ Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

/s/ Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

/s/ Brian Mast
Member of Congress
Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress  

Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress  

Bryan Steil  
Member of Congress  

Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress  

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress  

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Member of Congress  

Carol D. Miller  
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Collin C. Peterson  
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Charlie Crist  
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Member of Congress  

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Member of Congress  

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Member of Congress  

David Kustoff  
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David P. Joyce
Member of Congress

Donna E. Shalala
Member of Congress

David Trone
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Denny Heck
Member of Congress

Ed Case
Member of Congress

Denver Riggleman
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Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Don Bacon
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress
/s/ Fred Keller  
Member of Congress

/s/ Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress

/s/ Fred Upton  
Member of Congress

/s/ Hal Rogers  
Member of Congress

/s/ French Hill  
Member of Congress

/s/ Haley Stevens  
Member of Congress

/s/ G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

/s/ Harley Rouda  
Member of Congress

/s/ Gary Palmer  
Member of Congress

/s/ Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress

/s/ George Holding  
Member of Congress

/s/ J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

/s/ Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress

/s/ Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress

/s/ Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

/s/ Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress

/s/ Greg Gianforte  
Member of Congress

/s/ James Comer  
Member of Congress
/s/
James R. Baird, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
Jim Costa
Member of Congress

/s/
James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

/s/
Jim Himes
Member of Congress

/s/
Jared Golden
Member of Congress

/s/
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

/s/
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

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Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

/s/
Jason Crow
Member of Congress

/s/
Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress

/s/
Jason Smith
Member of Congress

/s/
Jody Hice
Member of Congress

/s/
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

/s/
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

/s/
Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress

/s/
Joe Cunningham
Member of Congress

/s/
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

/s/
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

/s/
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

/s/
John B. Larson
Member of Congress

/s/
Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

/s/
John Carter
Member of Congress
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Michael Guest
Member of Congress

/s/
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

/s/
Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

/s/
Paul Cook
Member of Congress

/s/
Mike Bost
Member of Congress

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Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

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Mike Gallagher
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Pete Aguilar
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Mike Garcia
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Pete Olson
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Mike Kelly
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Peter A. DeFazio
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Peter J. Visclosky
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Mike Simpson
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Peter Welch
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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/s/
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

/s/
Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
Ralph Norman
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/s/
Nita M. Lowey
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Randy K. Weber
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Raúl M. Grijalva
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Rick Crawford
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Ro Khanna
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Rob Bishop
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Robert B. Aderholt
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Rodney Davis
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Roger Williams
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Ron Kind
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Rosa L. DeLauro
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Ross Spano
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Ruben Gallego
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
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Scott Peters
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Stephanie Murphy
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Steve Cohen
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Steve Womack
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Tom Cole
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Tom Reed
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Susie Lee
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Tony Cárdenas
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Ted Deutch
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Trent Kelly
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Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

/s/
Troy Balderson
Member of Congress

/s/
Ted W. Lieu
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Val B. Demings
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Terri A. Sewell
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Vern Buchanan
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Thomas R. Suozzi
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Veronica Escobar
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Vicente Gonzalez
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Tim Ryan
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Vicky Hartzler
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TJ Cox
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Will Hurd
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William R. Keating
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Wm. Lacy Clay
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/s/
Xochitl Torres Small
Member of Congress

/s/
Yvette D. Clarke
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/s/
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress