



Herb B. Kuhn
President and CEO
P.O. Box 60
Jefferson City, MO 65102

July 22, 2020

The Honorable Jason Smith
U.S. Congressman
2418 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0005

Dear Congressman Smith:

On behalf of the 140 members of the Missouri Hospital Association, I thank you for sponsoring new legislation with Rep. McKinley that would allow for forgiveness of repayment obligations of Medicare Accelerated Payments based on a showing of significant financial hardship. We appreciate your leadership in recognizing the depth and duration of financial challenges facing many hospitals as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The expansion of the Medicare Accelerated Payment program by the CARES Act was welcome and is deeply appreciated. It provided a means for many hospitals to survive while the financial relief authorized elsewhere in the act could be designed and implemented. However, the assistance is a loan that must be repaid with an automatic offset of Medicare payments until the debt is resolved. With the ongoing uncertainties of a resurgent pandemic, giving the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services the ability to forgive or delay repayment obligations or reduce the interest rate based on financial hardship is good policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Landon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel Landon
Senior Vice President of Governmental Relations

dl/djb

c Dylan Chandler