

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 19, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representative  
H-232  
Washington, DC 20215

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204  
Washington, DC 20215

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

As Congress continues to negotiate end-of-the-year legislative items, we wish to call your attention to three issues in particular, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding, Community Health Center (CHC) funding and Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payment reductions. Each of these issues must be addressed in a bipartisan fashion before the end of this year in order to ensure essential care and services go uninterrupted. Without meaningful action on all three of these matters, countless New Yorkers and Americans across the nation will be negatively and unfairly impacted.

**Community Health Centers:**

Community Health Centers serve over 27 million individuals across the country, including over 300,000 of our nation's veterans. In our home state of New York, over 60 CHC facilities provide services for roughly 2 million New York State residents. The Community Health Center Fund authorized by Congress represents 70% of CHC funding, which expired earlier this year. Without knowing whether funding will be renewed, these facilities face significant financial hardships and could cause programs to scale back the services they provide, and in some instances, staff reductions and facility closures are also being considered. In order to ensure timely funding, we respectfully request that funding for Federally Qualified Community Health Centers for a period of at least two years be passed into law before the end of the year.

**Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding:**


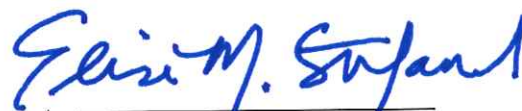
In New York, safety net hospitals across the state rely upon Medicaid DSH funding. If the current Medicaid DSH cuts are not delayed, New York State safety net hospitals stand to see, on average, a 20%, or roughly \$800 million cut in funding for 2018 and 2019. Without action on this issue, some of the nation's most vulnerable populations will be unnecessarily impacted, and hospitals will be required, once again, to do more with less. To remediate this issue, we request a delay of at least two years be considered to ensure services to patients go uninterrupted.

**Children's Health Insurance Program:**

The Children's Health Insurance Program has been an enormously successful program responsible for dramatically reducing the volume of uninsured children across the nation. In New York State alone, over 300,000 children receive insurance through this vital program, however, the authorization for this has also expired. Congress must take immediate action in order to ensure continuous coverage for the roughly 9 million children benefiting from this program nation-wide. We request that a 5 year extension of CHIP be included in any year-end measure to ensure our nation's children receive the best care possible.

While there are several important matters pending before Congress at present, these three issues are of particular importance to the state of New York. We urge you to address these matters as promptly as possible to ensure essential healthcare services are delivered.

Sincerely,

  
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Lee M. Zeldin  
Member of Congress  
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Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress  
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Peter King  
Member of Congress  
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Thomas Suozzi  
Member of Congress  
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John Katko  
Member of Congress  
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Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress  
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Daniel M. Donovan  
Member of Congress  
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Kathleen Rice  
Member of Congress