

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

October 9, 2020

**VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY:**

The Honorable Alex M. Azar, II  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20201-1114

Dear Secretary Azar:

We write today with concerns regarding the Post-Payment Notice of Reporting Requirements published on September 19, 2020. We have grave concerns this change in reporting requirements for funds received from the Provider Relief Fund (PRF) will create uncertainty and financial hardship for hospitals in our states, particularly in rural areas. In the midst of the COVID19 pandemic, our health care providers need more certainty, not less.

The CARES Act, enacted in March 2020, established the PRF to reimburse eligible health care providers for health care-related expenses and lost revenues attributable to the coronavirus. Hospitals and other providers received funds and have budgeted accordingly. However, we are still in the midst of a pandemic and providers continue to face uncertainty in terms of loss of revenue from delayed procedures and care as well as increased expenses related to COVID 19.

Based upon the impact of these changes to access to health care, we urge you to carefully consider any policies that disproportionately affect rural and safety net hospitals.

Sincerely,

/s/ Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator

/s/ John Barrasso  
United States Senator

/s/ John Boozman  
United States Senator

/s/ Richard Burr  
United States Senator

/s/ Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator

/s/ Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

/s/ John Cornyn  
United States Senator

/s/ Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator

/s/ Mike Crapo  
United States Senator

/s/ Steve Daines  
United States Senator

/s/ Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator

/s/ Deb Fischer  
United States Senator

/s/ Cory Gardner  
United States Senator

/s/ Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator

/s/ Josh Hawley  
United States Senator

/s/ Cindy Hyde-Smith  
United States Senator

/s/ James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator

/s/ Kelly Loeffler  
United States Senator

/s/ Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

/s/ Jerry Moran  
United States Senator

/s/ Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator

/s/ David A. Perdue  
United States Senator

/s/ James E. Risch  
United States Senator

/s/ M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator

/s/ Marco Rubio  
United States Senator

/s/ Tim Scott  
United States Senator

/s/ Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator

/s/ Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator

/s/ John Thune  
United States Senator

/s/ Thom Tillis  
United States Senator

/s/ Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator