



## Contact Senators and Urge Them to Support Hospitals and Health Systems in the Next COVID-19 Relief Package

As Congress considers additional COVID-19 relief actions, we need to make sure hospital and health systems' priorities are at the top of its list.

It is expected that the next legislative package will come together this month, so please contact your senators while they are home for the July 4 district work period and ask them to include a number of important provisions in the next COVID-19 relief package.

Please urge them to include:

- Additional support for front-line health care personnel;
- Forgiveness for accelerated payments;
- Maintaining health benefits for individuals and families and increasing coverage options for those who are uninsured;
- Appropriate liability protections to front-line medical providers and facilities; and
- Additional funding for hospitals and health systems.

Following are some additional resources on specific provisions Congress should include in the next COVID 19 Relief Package:

**Federal Support for Health Care Heroes.** Please urge Congress to provide support for child care, housing, transportation and education benefits for hospital workers; provide bonus pay for hospital workers; and establish a compensation fund for COVID-19 health care workers and their families.

**Accelerated Payment Forgiveness for Hospitals.** Congress should provide for full forgiveness of Medicare accelerated payments for hospitals. Forgiving hospitals' accelerated payments will provide a necessary solution to recover and rebuild while delivering the care that patients and communities are depending on.

**Federal Liability Protections.** Congress should provide appropriate liability protections for facilities and front-line medical providers treating patients amid the COVID-19 crisis, for arranging for and providing health care services, including where treatment is provided, and how best to deploy personnel, equipment and facilities.

**Increase Health Insurance Coverage.** Congress should take action to maintain health benefits for individuals and families and increase coverage options for those who are already uninsured by: providing employer subsidies for preserving enrollment; covering COBRA costs; opening a Special Enrollment Period for Health Insurance Marketplaces; increasing eligibility for federal marketplace subsidies; expanding the period during which insurers cannot cancel coverage for non-payment of premiums; and providing charity care tax credits for hospitals.

**Funding for Hospitals and Health Systems.** Congress should provide additional funding to support hospitals and health systems. Two recent AHA reports estimate that hospitals will lose more than \$323 billion from March 2020 through December 2020 as a result of COVID-19. While Congress has provided some relief funds, additional support is needed to allow hospitals and health systems to preserve access to care in communities.

### 2020 PAC Contributions

Eric Boley  
Barry Burkart  
Carol Solie  
Doug Faus  
Heidi Baskfield  
Doug McMillan  
Tim Thornell  
Maureen Cadwell  
Margie Molitor

## Washakie Nurses Travel to Phoenix to Help COVID-19 Patients

As COVID-19 cases continue to increase in Arizona, nurses from Banner's Washakie Medical Center in Worland, Wyo. have joined other fellow front-line health care workers at Banner Del E Webb Medical Center in Phoenix to help treat hospitalized patients.

Three nurses from Wyoming recently made their way to Phoenix to care for patients with COVID-19, and they anticipate being there for two weeks. All three nurses were motivated to go to Arizona to provide support for their colleagues who are currently seeing an influx of patients due to the continued rise in COVID-19 cases in Arizona.

Brianna Nothe is a registered nurse, a mother of a 5-year-old and has three years of nursing experience. She is compassionate and always willing to

help when needed, especially when it came to offering aid to those who need it the most during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Nursing is hard and my colleagues need support. I feel like I am in a position to do something about that," Nothe said.

Brianna Kilpatrick and Britanna McCormack are both new graduate registered nurses with a year of nursing experience. They are eager to learn all that they can.

"It is not every day that you get the opportunity to travel to assist a sister hospital," Kilpatrick said. "I am thankful for the chance to enhance my knowledge and skills while helping those in need."

While the three were nervous going into their first shift in Arizo-

na, they said they were excited and ready as they would ever be.

"I had heard about the situation in Arizona and saw that they needed help, plus I was interested in the experience that working in Arizona has to offer," McCormack said.

Banner Health is also welcoming former health care employees to rejoin various departments that need additional staffing support during this time. To learn more about employment opportunities with Banner Health, visit [bannerhealth.com/careers](http://bannerhealth.com/careers).



## Community Interpreter Training

The Community Interpreter® International Training is coming to Rawlins!

August 7, 8, 9 and 15, 16, 2020 Time: 8:30 am to 5:30 pm at the Memorial Hospital of Carbon County 2221 West Elm Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301. The cost is \$660.00

Community interpreting is a growing profession that targets health care, education, human and social services. The use of qualified interpreters is promoted and endorsed by federal legislation, hospital accreditation agen-

cies and many state and municipal laws. The Community Interpreter® International is the only national certificate program for community interpreting in the U.S.

Limited financial assistance available Limited Scholarships for Office of Health Equity:

<https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/multicultural/wyoming-interpreter-training/>

Limited Financial Scholarships for the Flex Program: <https://www.wyqim.com/support-and-funding>

The Instructor, Ingrid Oseguera, is originally from the land of the Mayans, Guatemala. She loves languages and diversity. She has been an interpreter for the state of Utah for the last 19 years, serving her community as a court, community and medical interpreter.

For more information contact: Lillian Zuniga @ 307 777-5601 or [lillian.zuniga@wyo.gov](mailto:lillian.zuniga@wyo.gov)

## FCC Funding Available for Rural Health Care Program

The Federal Communications Commission's Rural Health Care Program will carry forward up to \$197.98 million in unused funds from prior years to increase available funding for 2020 to \$802.74 million if needed, the agency announced yesterday. The commission in 2018 established a process to carry forward past

unused funds to meet growing demand for access to health care broadband services, particularly in rural areas. It also increased the program's annual funding cap and decided to adjust it annually for inflation. "And now, more than ever, our foresight is fortuitous, as telehealth is proving to be

critical in our fight against COVID-19," said FCC Chairman Ajit Pai. "Today's announcement speaks to the FCC's commitment to ensuring that rural health care providers can continue to serve their communities during this difficult time and well into the future."