December 13, 2019

Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives

Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate

Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of more than 220 children’s hospitals nationwide, we write to thank leaders in both parties for their work to address pressing health care issues and to urge that Congress pass Medicaid policies this year that will help protect access to care for children.

Both the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Senate Finance Committee have put forth bipartisan proposals that would eliminate FY 2020 and FY 2021 cuts to Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments. Medicaid is the single largest source of health insurance for children in the country and roughly half of all patient care in children’s hospitals is devoted to children who rely on Medicaid. Medicaid DSH payments are critical to the financial sustainability of children’s hospitals, enabling these pediatric facilities to continue their mission to serve all children, advance pediatric research and education, and improve community health. We ask that Congress include relief from these DSH cuts in legislation before the end of this year.

Additionally, children’s hospitals strongly support a provision put forward by Sens. Grassley and Wyden to implement a key recommendation from the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC). This provision addresses the treatment for purposes of calculating DSH payments of Medicaid-eligible patients who also have an additional source of coverage, such as Medicare or private insurance. We urge Congress to also include this provision in any final agreement on DSH policy.

Children’s hospitals appreciate the efforts of leaders in both the Senate and House to work together to prevent harmful Medicaid DSH cuts and champion policies that protect children’s health. We look forward to working with Congress to keep Medicaid strong for children—the future of our country.

Very best regards,

Mark Wietecha  
President and CEO

Champions for Children’s Health