

July 22, 2019

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta  
212 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: H.R. 3022, Patient Access Protection Act – SUPPORT**  
**H.R. 3054, DSH Cuts Delay Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Congressman Panetta:

I am writing today on behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to express our support for the Patient Access Protection Act (H.R. 3022) and the DSH Cuts Delay Act (H.R. 3054), which aim to avoid Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payment cuts in favor of a more sustainable solution.

Monterey County is deeply concerned about the detrimental impact of impending cuts to the Medicaid DSH payment program, scheduled to take effect of October 1, 2019. As you know, Medicaid DSH payments are critical to local hospitals, including Natividad Medical Center, that serve our nation's most vulnerable citizens. Hospitals that care for a disproportionate amount of low-income people and uninsured patients incur tremendous uncompensated costs. Medicaid DSH payments aid in making up for those losses and allow our local hospitals to continue to provide high quality care to all patients.

We applaud Congress's bipartisan recognition of the importance of Medicaid DSH payments through its delay of cuts to the program four times, most recently through the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. While Medicaid DSH cuts have yet to go into effect since implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), under current law, DSH cuts will begin with a \$4 billion cut in FY 2020 and increase to \$8 billion in FY 2021. Cuts of this magnitude will undoubtedly have a negative effect on Natividad Medical Center and its ability to provide safety net care for many county residents.

We urge you to support these important pieces of legislation in order to allow local hospitals like Natividad to continue to provide quality care for the nation's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,

John M. Phillips  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Kamala Harris