

TOM EMMER
6TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES
FINANCIAL SERVICES
RANKING MEMBER, TASK FORCE
ON FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEES
INVESTOR PROTECTION,
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND
CAPITAL MARKETS
NATIONAL SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AND MONETARY POLICY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2306

315 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2331
DISTRICT OFFICE
9201 OLIVADAY AVENUE NE
SUITE 206
OTSEGO, MN 55330
(763) 241-6848
HOUSE REPUBLICAN STEERING
REPUBLICAN WHIP TEAM
DEPUTY WHIP TEAM

June 25, 2021

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independent Ave, SW Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra,

We write to express our concerns about the updated Provider Relief Fund (PRF) reporting requirements that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released on June 11, 2021. Unfortunately, the Administration continues to implement the PRF in a manner that will likely require hundreds of rural hospitals to return funds to the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

In March 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which appropriated funds to reimburse eligible health care providers for health care-related expenses or lost revenues attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic. The resulting PRF has assisted providers fighting the coronavirus, but many in rural America are not able to use their allocations as Congress intended.

Unfortunately, the June 11 HHS guidance does not include exceptions for rural providers that would ensure the funding provides required stability, most notably:

- Use of funds after June 30, 2021, for Phase 1 recipients;
- Allowance of capital expenditures if funds were in-contract prior to the June 30, 2021, deadline; and
- Easing of reporting requirements for cost-based providers like Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), and rural Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).

Since 2010, 138 rural hospitals have closed their doors, with more than twenty occurring in 2020, at the peak of the pandemic. It is unfathomable that a significant portion of this lifeline designed by Congress to support struggling providers will ultimately be returned to Treasury, instead of helping rural communities.

We therefore urge you to correct this guidance before June 30, 2021, when hundreds of rural providers will be forced to return PRF dollars to Washington, D.C. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,




Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Ron Estes
Member of Congress



Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann
Member of Congress

/s/

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



Fred Keller
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress



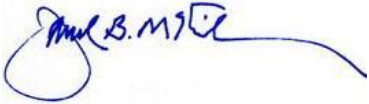
Billy Long
Member of Congress



Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley P.E.
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



John Rose
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress