



July 23, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

We, the undersigned organizations write on behalf of millions of older vulnerable Americans and their frontline caregivers throughout long-term care (LTC) facilities, including skilled nursing facilities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities (including dementia and Alzheimer's care), continuing care retirement communities, independent senior living communities, and home and community-based services providers. As Congress continues to consider the needs for investment in our nation's infrastructure, we urge you to ensure that the remaining critically necessary relief in the Provider Relief Fund (PRF) are not repurposed for infrastructure. These funds should be used for the purpose you originally intended.

As you know, long-term care providers have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, caring for those most vulnerable to this virus. In doing so, they have incurred tens of billions of dollars in expenses and losses due to PPE, staffing needs, overtime and incentive pay, and record-low occupancy rates that continue to compound. While the Provider Relief Fund has helped offset some of these losses, more is critically needed to ensure caregivers have the financial resources to continue serving our nation's most vulnerable seniors. Many providers have received relief for a portion of losses and expenses incurred in the first six months of 2020, or in some cases no relief at all. However, many providers suffered more dire financial impacts later in 2020 and yet have had no opportunity to obtain Provider Relief Funds for the losses and expenses incurred in the past 12 months. Providers have been anticipating the forthcoming Phase 4 of relief for months, and Congress must ensure that these funds are made available in full and as quickly as possible.

While we support proposals to invest in our nation's infrastructure, including addressing the growing need for long-term services and supports, we are strongly opposed to any efforts that would take away relief dollars to help pay for infrastructure projects. Doing so would be short-

sighted, especially as COVID-19 variants continue to spread—including the Delta variant that now accounts for 83% of cases—that threaten the safety of our nation’s seniors and their caregivers.

We thank you for your continued attention to the needs of older Americans and strongly urge that remaining Provider Relief Fund dollars not be reallocated for any other purposes.

Regards,



Mark Parkinson
President & CEO
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Care Association/
National Center for
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James Balda
President & CEO
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David Schless
President
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