March 1, 2022

The Honorable Cindy Axne
United House of Representatives
1034 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anthony Gonzalez
United House of Representatives
2458 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Mace
United House of Representatives
212 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks
United House of Representatives
1716 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Abigail Spanberger
United States House of Representatives
1431 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Axne, Gonzalez, Mace, Miller-Meeks, and Spanberger:

The undersigned organizations represent thousands of health and long-term care services and supports providers and stakeholders that care for those most in need across the country. As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has deeply challenged the entire health care continuum: the industry is grappling with a historic workforce crisis, financial challenges, and closures of some communities and centers across the country. The Provider Relief Fund (PRF) has been a lifeline for many and has helped to ensure that our nation’s long-term care services and supports providers can continue to provide the needed care to our nation’s frail, elderly, individuals with disabilities and most vulnerable.

We thank you for your support of the PRF and for recently introducing the Provider Relief Fund Improvement Act (H.R. 5963) which helps health care providers by:

- Extending current reporting and use-of-funds deadlines to the end of the pandemic;
- Ensuring that workplace safety improvements – such as security personnel, risk assessments and physical improvements, including panic buttons and security cameras – are an allowable use of PRF dollars;
• Directing HRSA to distribute any funds remaining in the PRF by either the end of the public health emergency or by March 31, 2022, and;
• Creating an application process for certain providers to receive funds returned in compliance with previous deadlines.

We endorse this legislation and, in addition to pushing out any remaining dollars in the PRF to our very deserving providers, we also urge your support for a replenishment of the PRF as this pandemic and the impact of it is not over. Please know that we are here to answer any questions you might have. Our provider and stakeholder members would welcome the opportunity to visit with you at any time to talk in more detail about how the PRF has been critical for the long-term care sector and those they serve.

Sincerely,

Mark Parkinson
President & CEO
American Health Care Association

Katie Smith Sloan
President & CEO
LeadingAge

LaShuan Bethea
Executive Director
National Center for Assisted Living

Heyward Hilliard
President
National Association of State Veterans Homes

Don Shulman
President & CEO
Association of Jewish Aging Services

Katie Smith Sloan
Executive Director
Pediatric Complex Care Association

Jonathan S. Westin
Senior Director
The Jewish Federations of North America
Charlotte Haberaecker  
President and CEO  
Lutheran Services in America

Christopher E. Laxton, CAE  
Executive Director  
The Society for Post-Acute  
And Long Term Care Medicine

Barbara Bowers PhD, RN, FAAN  
Chair  
Advancing Excellence in Long Term  
Care Collaborative, Inc.

Shannon McCracken  
VP, Government Relations  
American Network of Community  
Options and Resources

David Schless  
President  
American Seniors Housing Association