



March 1, 2022

**The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510**

**The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510**

Dear Senators Shaheen and Collins:

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 (S. 3611)* 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



LaShuan Bethea
Executive Director
National Center for Assisted Living



Katie Smith Sloan
President & CEO
LeadingAge



Patricia Budo
Executive Director
Pediatric Complex Care Association



Heyward Hilliard
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National Association of
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Don Shulman
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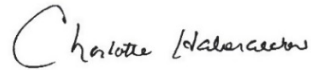
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