

March 24, 2020

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

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

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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

Re: Relief to independent physician practices on the front lines of the COVID-19 response

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer and Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the undersigned entities, we write to request relief for independent physician organizations on the front lines responding to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We are concerned about the significant disruption this crisis is having and will continue to have on the health care infrastructure and in particular, physician practices who are currently facing debilitating declines in practice revenue or increasing deficits in value-based arrangements. We ask you to take specific steps to specifically ensure that relief goes to independent physician organizations during and after this crisis.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, independent physician practices have been on the frontlines caring for our patients as we work to try and stem the spread of COVID-19 across the country. We are working to keep our patients safe and have cancelled all elective procedures and have deployed helpful telehealth flexibilities. However, our physician practices are facing 30% to 75% declines in visits and therefore revenue; those physician practices in full-risk value-based arrangements are likely to face significant deficits due to the increase of Covid-19 hospitalizations. As a result, we are experiencing significant cash flow issues that will require us to reduce clinical staff at a time of tremendous need.

As a result, we ask that you **provide financial relief specifically designated for independent physician practices.** We ask that relief funds and loan programs be specifically designated to ensure that physician practices can maintain their independence and continue to provide care during and after this crisis. These funds should be sufficient to address compensation for physicians and staff, supply costs, and the technology infrastructure needed to support telehealth visits that will be replacing face to face visits for the foreseeable future. We also ask that you **help ensure that independent practices have equitable access to the critical personal protective equipment need to appropriately care for patients during this pandemic.**

We appreciate your consideration of these requests. We would be pleased to provide any additional information to assist you moving forward.

Sincerely,

Advantia Health

agilon health

Aledade

Alliance for Innovative Primary Care

CareMount Medical

Central Oregon Independent Practice Association

Cityblock

Evolent Health

Heritage Provider Network

Iora Health

Landmark Health

Partnership to Empower Physician-Led Care

VillageMD