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Committees:  
Appropriations  
Education & Career Development, RMM  
Health and Provider Services  
Homeland Security & Transportation  
School Funding Subcommittee  
Veterans Affairs & The Military

May 15, 2020

The Honorable Pete Visclosky  
2328 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Visclosky,

Thank you for your work negotiating stimulus packages designed to help mitigate the devastating impact of COVID-19 on our communities. It is my understanding that you'll be voting on the HEROES Act today. Without knowing exactly what the bill includes, my hope is that additional funding for safety net hospitals like Gary Methodist that are experiencing high rates of COVID-19 cases is part of the package.

As you know, the CARES Act included a \$100 billion Provider Relief Fund to help hospitals and other health providers replace lost revenue due to the pandemic. The funding was divided into different pots of money, including a \$12 billion High Impact Fund for "hot spot areas".

To receive part of the \$12 billion, hospitals had to have over 100 COVID-19 cases before April 10<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, Gary Methodist just missed the 100 case threshold with 85 cases. Hospitals in Hammond and Munster received funding because they had over 100 cases before April 10<sup>th</sup>. They were hit earlier by the pandemic, due to their closer proximity to Chicago.

As part of the Paycheck Protection and Health Care Enhancement Act, another \$75 billion will be made available for healthcare providers to support public entities, Medicare or Medicaid-enrolled providers, and nonprofit entities that diagnose, test, or care for individuals with possible or actual cases of COVID-19. Hopefully, this will be funding Gary Methodist can take advantage of since Medicaid cases will be one of the metrics used.

In recognition of the fact that Lake County has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rates of both COVID-19 cases and fatalities, I respectfully request that additional funds be targeted to safety-net hospitals like Gary Methodist whose COVID-19 cases peaked after April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

  
Indiana Senate District 3