VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY:

The Honorable Alex M. Azar, II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201-1114

Dear Secretary Azar:

We write today with concerns regarding the Post-Payment Notice of Reporting Requirements published on September 19, 2020. We have grave concerns this change in reporting requirements for funds received from the Provider Relief Fund (PRF) will create uncertainty and financial hardship for hospitals in our states, particularly in rural areas. In the midst of the COVID19 pandemic, our health care providers need more certainty, not less.

The CARES Act, enacted in March 2020, established the PRF to reimburse eligible health care providers for health care-related expenses and lost revenues attributable to the coronavirus. Hospitals and other providers received funds and have budgeted accordingly. However, we are still in the midst of a pandemic and providers continue to face uncertainty in terms of loss of revenue from delayed procedures and care as well as increased expenses related to COVID 19.

Based upon the impact of these changes to access to health care, we urge you to carefully consider any policies that disproportionately affect rural and safety net hospitals.

Sincerely,

/s/ Marsha Blackburn      /s/ John Barrasso
United States Senator      United States Senator

/s/ John Boozman      /s/ Richard Burr
United States Senator      United States Senator
/s/ Lisa Murkowski       /s/ David A. Perdue
United States Senator   United States Senator

/s/ James E. Risch      /s/ M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator   United States Senator

/s/ Marco Rubio         /s/ Tim Scott
United States Senator   United States Senator

/s/ Kyrsten Sinema      /s/ Dan Sullivan
United States Senator   United States Senator

/s/ John Thune          /s/ Thom Tillis
United States Senator   United States Senator

/s/ Roger F. Wicker      
United States Senator