



GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF ILLINOIS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 18, 2020

Director Theresa Eagleson, HFS
Prescott Bloom Building
201 South Second Street
Springfield, IL 62763

Dear Director Eagleson:

As members of the House Republican Caucus, we are aware that you are working with the Medicaid Working Group to address issues related to healthcare disparities across the State of Illinois. It is also our understanding that you are currently discussing Hospital Transformation funding for the State.

As Legislators, we represent areas across the entire State, including central and downstate Illinois. Our districts are challenged with not only access to healthcare but certainly access to hospital care. In many of our districts our constituents travel across several counties to receive hospital care. For our constituents it is not only an issue of specialty care but simply immediate care. We encounter severe medical deserts across the state, but especially in central and downstate Illinois. Poverty knows no boundaries in our state and certainly our districts suffer equally as other areas of the state. The USDA published a research article in May of this year. In that research they found that in 2018, all the extreme poverty counties were in rural America.

The health care needs of the rural communities many of us represent can best be protected by ensuring Critical Access Hospitals receive sufficient and equitable access to Hospital Transformation funding. Workers in the agricultural and meat-packing industries, many of whom are Black and Brown, rely on Critical Access Hospitals as their primary source of care.

Because access to care strongly correlates to an individual's income level, we believe that maintaining an income-based formula in allocating Hospital Transformation funding will ensure that the unique health care needs of our constituents are met, while also ensuring an equitable and fair distribution of funding statewide.

Director Theresa Eagleson
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We urge you to take this information into consideration as you continue to develop a plan for Hospital Transformation funding for Illinois. Using an overlay of designated poverty areas across the state is the first step in ensuring that this funding is fair and equitable across all counties.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns.

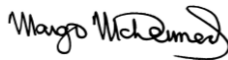
Sincerely,



Jim Durkin
State Representative – 82nd District



Bradley Stephens
State Representative – 20th District



Margo McDermed
State Representative – 37th District



Grant Wehri
State Representative – 41st District



Amy Grant
State Representative – 42nd District



Deanne Mazzochi
State Representative – 47th District



Keith Wheeler
State Representative – 50th District



Tom Morrison
State Representative – 54th District



Steve Reick
State Representative – 63rd District



Tom Weber
State Representative – 64th District



Dan Ugaste
State Representative – 65th District



John Cabello
State Representative – 68th District



Joe Sosnowski
State Representative – 69th District



Jeff Keicher
State Representative – 70th District



Tony McCombie
State Representative – 71st District



Ryan Spain
State Representative – 73rd District



Dan Swanson
State Representative – 74th District



David A. Welter
State Representative – 75th District



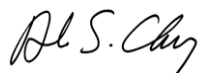
Lindsay Parkhurst
State Representative – 79th District



Tim Butler
State Representative – 87th District



Keith Sommer
State Representative – 88th District



Andrew Chesney
State Representative – 89th District



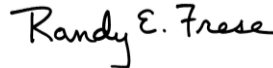
Tom Demmer
State Representative – 90th District



Mike Unes
State Representative – 91st District



Norine Hammond
State Representative – 93rd District



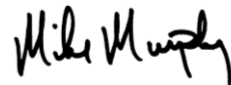
Randy Frese
State Representative – 94th District



Avery Bourne
State Representative – 95th District



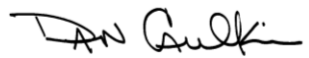
Mark Batinick
State Representative – 97th District



Mike Murphy
State Representative – 99th District



C.D. Davidsmeyer
State Representative – 100th District



Dan Caulkins
State Representative – 101st District




Brad Halbrook
State Representative – 102nd District



Mike Marron
State Representative – 104th District



Dan Brady
State Representative – 105th District



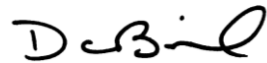
Thomas M. Bennett
State Representative – 106th District



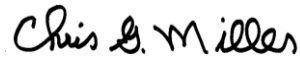
Blaine Wilhour
State Representative – 107th District



Charlie Meier
State Representative – 108th District



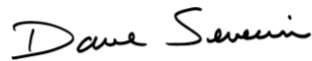
Darren Bailey
State Representative – 109th District



Chris Miller
State Representative – 110th District



Terri Bryant
State Representative – 115th District



Dave Severin
State Representative – 117th District



Patrick Windhorst
State Representative – 118th District