



May 18, 2020

Senator Charles Schumer
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer,

As the President of NY's Home Care Association, I submit this appeal on behalf of the approximately 800,000 medically needy home care constituents who are at highest risk of COVID severity and mortality, along with the more than 210,000 constituent home care workers and provider agencies in need of your leadership and action.

We thank you for the COVID aid provisions adopted in the Congressional actions to date granting regulatory flexibility for patient service and worker protection capabilities.

As you now work to build this next aid package, home care is in urgent need of financial support, and of your action to realize this aid.

The prior COVID packages have yielded billions in help for hospital needs; however, home care's fiscal chasm in COVID has been substantially unaided by these measures. NY's home care agencies, workers and patients need your action for direct fiscal assistance in this next aid package. This is a threshold appeal for sustainability for those being treated at home with COVID, for COVID-prevention and mitigation throughout home care's high-risk population that is most susceptible to COVID and COVID-severity, and ultimately for home care's sustainability beyond COVID for the vital preventive, primary, post-acute and long-term care services it renders every day in NY.

Based on current fiscal impact data, losses to NY's home health agencies from COVID are projected to approach **\$200 million** over the balance of the 2020 alone. The attributable COVID cost overruns and lost compensation to agencies are from factors as: unreimbursed cost of personal protective equipment for frontline workers not provided by the formal public health system; impact on and reduction of the home care workforce from COVID infection and isolation policies; higher operating and service costs from COVID procedural requirements as well as from extensive challenges in patient-family engagement and fears in COVID; substantial depletion of service revenue due to service disruption; and other systemic factors. This does not include the fiscal impact of the likely COVID rebound.

The National Association for Home Care and Hospice advocates a 15% Medicare rate adjustment to home health agencies to yield \$2.7 billion in national COVID relief. We strongly support this national fund target.

However, as NY's Home Care Association in the COVID epicenter, we need the NY Delegation action to include, by whatever acceptable method, **a priority fiscal aid target of \$200 million for our state's home health agencies**. We appeal to you to work with Congressional colleagues to provide for this urgent constituent support.

NY's home care workers have risked their own health and safety beyond measure, have kept patients in safe and essential care at home, and have continued to transition from hospital-to-home those who are post-acute, rehabbing and chronically ill, including many who are COVID-afflicted. Home care is serving core roles in hospital decompression, surge mitigation and assistance across the continuum in addition to the extensive in-home care it provides. HCA asks the Delegation's urgent fiscal action to support agencies and their patients.

HCA and our agencies and advocates stand ready to provide you with whatever additional information or assistance can help achieve the needed fiscal support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Al Cardillo".

Al Cardillo
President and CEO