

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

and people at risk of opioid overdoses could overwhelm hospital emergency facilities. There is also considerable evidence that COVID-19 is undermining progress in ongoing battle against the opioid epidemic.

As you know, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136) included \$100 billion in funding for the PHSSEF to support health care providers on the front lines of the coronavirus crisis. The recently passed Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act includes an additional \$75 million for the PHSSEF.

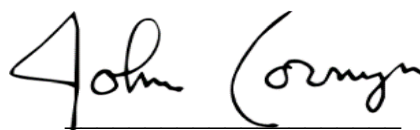
Based on the information we have received to date, we are concerned that behavioral health providers are largely left behind in the planned allocations of the initial \$100 billion fund. HHS initially announced that \$30 billion of the \$100 billion fund would go to Medicare fee-for-service providers. In its recent follow up announcement, HHS indicated it will distribute an additional \$20 billion of the fund based on net patient revenues with little clarity on how Medicaid-dependent and Medicaid-only providers will be treated. We are concerned that this approach may continue to significantly underfund and potentially continue to exclude many essential providers, including mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers who serve a large number of Medicaid beneficiaries. We are also concerned that the \$10 billion HHS intends to allocate to hospitals in high impact areas and the \$10 billion intended for rural health clinics and hospitals will also not adequately address behavioral health care.

We appreciate your efforts to quickly allocate funding to critical health care providers, but we must ensure that all future efforts recognize the needs of mental health and substance use disorder providers and organizations so they can continue to meet the needs of their communities during this crisis. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we look forward to working with you.


Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
Joni Ernst
Michael F. Bennet
Steve Daines
Jacky Rosen
Tina Smith
Jon Tester
Margaret Wood Hassan
Maria Cantwell
Richard Blumenthal
Thomas R. Carper
Kyrsten Sinema
Bernard Sanders
Elizabeth Warren
Edward J. Markey
Dianne Feinstein
Angus S. King Jr.
Benjamin L. Cardin
Robert Menendez
Amy Klobuchar