

Communication from Public

Name: Jaime Garcia

Date Submitted: 09/21/2020 04:29 PM

Council File No: 20-0147-S46

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council President and Members of the City Council On behalf of our 28 member hospitals operating in the City of Los Angeles we appreciate the deliberations the City has undertaken on matters related to COVID. A key partner of the City in this effort, which has not been discussed, are the 28 hospitals who are on the frontlines treating and saving lives of thousands of Angelenos who've become infected with COVID-19. This effort has not been easy for hospitals who've incurred millions of dollars in COVID expenses in order to serve those in need. In order to support our hospitals, the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC) is respectfully requesting \$25 million from the City's federal allocation of Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) to support hospitals for their unreimbursed COVID-19 related expenses. Hospitals in the City of Los Angeles answered Governor Gavin Newson's call, sacrificing their financial stability to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Meeting the moment to address the crisis has come at devastating expense and massive risk to our hospitals. Our hospitals have taken steps to care for our City by: • Converting physical space to create additional capacity. • Purchasing additional personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators and Remdesivir. • Hiring additional staff. • Delaying capital projects to reallocate funds to pandemic mitigation efforts. The impact of COVID-19 has been significant in our city which represents slightly over forty (40) percent of all confirmed cases in Los Angeles County. Estimated net COVID-related expenses for hospitals (March to December) are over \$234 million even after taking into account FEMA reimbursement. Remdesivir costs alone amount to \$9 million: Between July 15 – August 31, hospitals in the city have paid for over 18,000 doses of the drug at \$520 per dose. The CARES Act Provider Relief Funds made by Congress has not been a panacea for California hospitals. The City represents 1.2 percent of the nationwide population. However, hospitals in the City have received less than 0.6 percent of the amounts allocated, leaving hospitals with limited resources to prepare for additional waves of COVID-19 cases. As the COVID-19 pandemic spread throughout the globe, the state of California, anticipating a deadly surge in cases, ordered hospitals to shut down routine and elective procedures, in order to preserve personal protective equipment

(PPE). Hospitals in the city answered our state's call, sacrificing their financial stability to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Meeting the moment to address the crisis has come at devastating expense and massive risk to our hospitals. On behalf of the hospitals, in your respective district, who are truly on the frontlines of this pandemic rendering life-saving medical treatment, we thank you for your time and look forward to receiving your support. Thank you.