

Dear Representative Dunn,

There is currently a “[Dear Colleague](#)” letter circulating urging passage of a bill, the Supporting Safety Net Hospitals Act (HR 2665), that will eliminate statutory Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) cuts for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. Without action, the state of Florida is set to lose \$153.6 million in federal DSH funding and a combined \$255.8 in state and federal funding, each year, over the next four years. **The Florida Hospital Association urges you to co-sponsor HR 2665 and sign on to the Dear Colleague encouraging other members to support this critical legislation.**

Congress established the Medicaid DSH program to provide financial assistance to hospitals serving a disproportionate number of Medicaid and uninsured patients to ensure they have access to health care services.

More than 2,500 hospitals in the U.S. receive DSH payments to address Medicaid underpayment and uncompensated care, which helps safeguard patient access to critical community services such as trauma and burn care, maternal and child health, high-risk neonatal care and disaster preparedness resources. The patients DSH hospitals serve are among those that most often experience challenges accessing care, including children, the poor, the disabled and the elderly.

The Affordable Care Act reduced payments to the Medicaid DSH program under the assumption that uncompensated care costs would decrease as health care coverage increased. Unfortunately, the coverage rates have not been fully realized, and tens of millions of Americans remain uninsured. These statutory reductions will take effect October 1, without further action by congress.

The “Supporting Safety Net Hospitals Act” ([HR 2665](#)) will address the cuts by eliminating them through 2025. As the Dear Colleague letter sponsors have noted, “Congress has recognized the importance of Medicaid DSH payments by passing eleven pieces of legislation delaying what would have been immediate cuts to the program.”

The bipartisan letter is being circulated by Representatives Michael Burgess (Tx), Yvette Clarke (NY), Dan Crenshaw (Tx), and Diana DeGette (Co). They ask that interested offices [use this form](#) to be added as both a cosponsor and to the letter. They also request interested offices sign on to the letter [via quill](#). The deadline to sign-on is **COB Thursday, May 11**.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. If you have any questions, or need contacts at the sponsoring offices, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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