



May 14, 2020

Good Afternoon:

On behalf of the California Children's Hospital Association, an organization dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of children, I am writing to urge your SUPPORT for H.R. 6800, the Health Economic Recovery Omnibus Economic Solutions (HEROES) Act. The Act would provide needed support to California's children's hospitals at this critical time, and ensure the long-term health of the nation's pediatric specialty care system.

California's children's hospitals serve a large number of children with significant medical complexity – including rare childhood cancers, sickle cell disease, and cystic fibrosis – regardless of their ability to pay. They are the backbone of a statewide regionalized network of pediatric experts that serve the state's most vulnerable populations. Our hospitals are also major academic training institutions, training many of the state's pediatricians and pediatric specialists.

Since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, our hospitals have worked diligently with state and local officials to gird for a potential surge of patients. Children's hospitals cancelled or rescheduled procedures that were not urgent, procured additional personal protective equipment (PPE), and made additional staffing and facility changes to prepare. These preparations have taken a significant financial toll on our hospitals. Our eight hospitals collectively are incurring financial losses of about \$150 million per month.

We are grateful for the assistance already provided via previous federal relief legislation, including The Cares Act (H.R. 748) and more recently in H.R. 266, but to date this relief falls far short of offsetting these mounting, ongoing losses. In fact, children's hospitals across the nation have received disproportionately less funding for COVID-19 relief than other academic teaching hospitals of similar size. We are very concerned that if these financial stresses are not adequately addressed, the persistent, prolonged losses that our hospitals are experiencing will ultimately jeopardize access to care for our pediatric patients.

Medically complex children and their families depend on our hospitals to serve their unique needs. Please help us to ensure that we can continue to be that safety net for the state's most vulnerable children by SUPPORTING H.R.6800, the HEROES Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mira Morton'.

Mira Morton  
Director of Government Relations  
[mmorton@ccha.org](mailto:mmorton@ccha.org)