

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 24, 2020

Jovita Carranza
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd St, SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Carranza,

We are writing to ask for a response and immediate attention to our April 2, 2020 letter to request that the Small Business Administration ensure that Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) who have facilities owned or operated by counties or districts are eligible for the SBA loan assistance programs provided by H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. It is unacceptable that it has been over 20 days since we sent that letter and there has been no response or regulatory relief for these critical health care providers.

Since the April 2, 2020 letter, we have heard reports that lack of clarity from the Small Business Administration has directly led to inconsistent interpretations by lenders providing approval and loans through the Paycheck Protection Program. In Colorado this negatively impacts 23 CAHs and numerous RHCs throughout the state. COVID-19 and the revenue challenge facing rural health care providers in light of the necessary suspension of elective procedures has led to countless reports of furloughs, pay cuts, and closures impacting rural communities across the country.

As we noted in our April 2, 2020 letter, during any time period, these hospitals and clinics are essential to support rural communities, but they are especially vital during this time of public health emergency. In addition to their irreplaceable role in serving the everyday health needs of our rural communities, some of these health care providers are actively responding to COVID-19 as we speak and others may be activated soon. Moreover, for many communities these hospitals are the largest active remaining employer in the economy.

In light of Congress' bipartisan work to resupply the Paycheck Protection Program with \$310 billion and provide additional opportunities for small businesses to support the employees and communities they serve, we request immediate attention to our request that regulatory action ensure CAHs and RHCs are eligible for the relevant CARES Act loan programs.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Scott R. Tipton
Member of Congress



Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

Cc: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Treasury