

April 19, 2021

The Honorable Cindy Axne  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Neal Dunn, MD  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Axne, Fitzpatrick and Dunn:

The 27 undersigned organizations write to express our support and appreciation for your leadership on the introduction of the Eliminating the Provider Relief Fund Tax Penalties Act (H.R. 2079). As you know, healthcare professionals have faced significant challenges during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), caring for patients under new, emergency circumstances. Financial instability and uncertainty has become commonplace for many Americans, including our members and their employees.

Congress' allocation of \$175 billion in financial relief to healthcare professionals through the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF) has been very necessary and greatly appreciated. As healthcare practices were asked to abstain from practice to preserve life-saving personal protective equipment, patient volumes and related revenues saw dramatic reductions. Without this vital funding, immense financial pressures for healthcare professionals would have resulted in practice closures and a loss of access to care for our nation's patients. Currently, PHSSEF assistance is taxable, **resulting in a 21% or more reduction to the benefit for taxpaying providers as compared to non-taxpaying providers.**

This negative impact penalizes those who care for our nation's most vulnerable. **The passage of H.R. 2079 would remove the negative tax implications for PHSSEF recipients by ensuring that all Provider Relief Fund assistance is not taxable, while maintaining that expenses tied to this assistance are tax-deductible.** This programmatic change is essential to continuing to support our members and their employees during this unprecedented national health crisis.

As healthcare professionals continue to face new challenges every day, H.R. 2079 would deliver crucial relief and help ease the burden on our nation's healthcare system. Offering all healthcare professionals regardless of tax status the ability to fully utilize the PHSSEF assistance is a laudable goal and is one that we collectively support. We look forward to working together to continue to advance this critical bill.

Sincerely,

Ambulatory Surgery Center Association  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American College of Emergency Physicians

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Dental Association  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Group Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)  
American Society for Surgery of the Hand  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Society of Retina Specialists  
American Urological Association  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Medical Group Management Association  
National Association for Behavioral Healthcare  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
The College of American Pathologists  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons