

RE: California Federal Relief Package Request

Dear (Insert federal elected official name here):

I am writing to express my vigorous opposition to the proposal included in California Governor Newsom's Revised 2020-21 State Budget that—without federal support—would eliminate supplemental funding for Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital (MLKCH.)

The impact of the cuts proposed to our hospital—\$30 million the first year with similar losses each year—would be permanent, devastating and catastrophic for the health and well-being of the South Los Angeles community.

I am aware that you and all of our leaders, both federally and at the state-level, are currently facing difficult decisions. Taking services away from a largely Medi-Cal population, with a poverty level more than double the State of California's and health outcomes worse than nearly any community in the country, will only increase the nation's burden. Lack of access to care will result in further disability, loss of life and economic instability.

Since opening in 2015, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital has shown that it works. Quality care is represented by safety and patient satisfaction ratings among the top in the nation. MLKCH is a source of pride for all of us—and a key weapon in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the state level, supplemental funding is a cornerstone of the public partnership for health in our community— an effective remedy for a very clear need.

I am here to advocate for your federal support for California. A federal relief package to support state governments is imperative to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and protect some of our country's most vulnerable citizens.

MLKCH is doing its job for my state and community. The federal government and your office must continue to do its job as its public partner. On behalf of our South LA community and more than 2,000 employees (more than half of them local) of MLKCH, I urge you to put in a plan in motion to provide California with a federal relief package.

Sincerely,

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