

Congress asking Trump administration to step up aid to rural hospitals

By David Williams
Capitol Beat News Service

More than 120 members of Congress, including three from Georgia, are asking the Trump administration to prioritize rural hospitals for funding from the \$2 trillion economic stimulus package Congress passed last week.

\$130 billion aimed specifically at the needs of hospitals fighting the coronavirus pandemic. The letter, dated Monday and sent to U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, is signed by 41 senators and 81 members of the House of Representatives, including Republican Sens. David Perdue and

Kelly Loeffler of Georgia, and Rep. Austin Scott, R-Tifton. "The CARES Act provides you with the flexibility to deliver assistance where it is needed most," the letter states. "Right now, some rural hospitals are reporting they're running out of operating funds. This jeopardizes their ability to maintain health-

care services during the COVID-19 outbreak. We cannot afford to ignore their pressing needs." The letter goes on to assert that most rural hospitals have stopped performing elective procedures and stopped seeing non-urgent patients in order to deal with those with coronavirus. The strain that is putting on

their finances is leaving some with only days of cash on hand, money they need for payroll and supplies. The letter asks Azar to brief members of Congress on the situation facing rural hospitals by teleconference by the end of this week. The stimulus package includes hundreds of

billions of dollars to help U.S. businesses large and small keep furloughed employees on their payrolls during the coronavirus crisis. It also will send checks directly to American workers and their families and deliver assistance to state and local governments suffering from losses in tax revenue.

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Loving God and Neighbor

"And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister."
1 John 4:21 NIV



The requirement to love your neighbor as yourself is second only to the duty to love God. When a pharisee asked Jesus which of the commandments is the greatest, Jesus responded, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40 NIV) This makes things very simple: Love God and love your neighbor. We don't have to look hard to find opportunities to do this. In every interaction with our friends and family we have the opportunity to show love. Likewise, with our

co-workers and schoolmates, and the people we meet in the street, there are always opportunities to demonstrate our love. Do this by being kind and forgiving of others. Tell others how much you appreciate them and treat them with tenderness and respect. Show your love of God by loving your neighbor. There is nothing greater you can do.
— Christopher Simon


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