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State Medical Societies Urge Senate to Keep Practices Economically Viable

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In a letter to U.S. Senate leadership, the FMA joined forces with the Texas Medical Association (TMA), the California Medical Association (CMA) and four other major state medical societies to urge lawmakers to provide additional relief for practices that are struggling during the pandemic.

The proposals advocated for in the letter include:

- Appropriating an additional \$100 billion in funding for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Provider Relief Fund using an equitable funding distribution formula to ensure all impacted practices receive relief;
- Increasing support for the production, distribution, and availability of PPE and testing;
- Directing HHS to release Provider Relief Funds to Medicaid physicians immediately, a step which HHS finally **moved forward with** on June 9;
- Increasing Medicaid matching funds by 14 percent to help states cope with increased Medicaid enrollment, and
- Requiring all public and private health plans – including

self-funded ERISA employer-sponsored plans – to reimburse for telehealth services and audio-only telephone services at parity with in-person visits.

“Addressing the needs of states and physicians on the frontlines combating the virus will ensure that our health care system and our economy recover from this crisis,” the letter said.

Separately, the FMA also joined more than 100 other medical societies in asking Congress to **provide targeted medical liability** protections to physicians who provide care in good faith during the pandemic.

In addition, the FMA has continued to publish **regular updates and resources** to help physicians navigate the changing regulatory environment and access relief during the pandemic.

Helping physicians remain financially viable is crucial to fulfilling our mission of helping physicians practice medicine. The FMA will continue to look for additional avenues to assist its members during this challenging time.

If you have questions or comments regarding the FMA’s advocacy efforts please contact us at membership@FLmedical.org