**Digital Toolkit**

Sens. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., and Susan Collins, R-Maine, last week introduced the Medicare Sequester Relief Act ([S. 748](https://www.shaheen.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Medicare%20Sequester%20Relief%20Act.pdf)), bipartisan legislation that would prevent the 2% across-the-board cut to all Medicare payments, known as sequestration, from taking effect during the COVID-19 public health emergency. To pay for the change, the bill would extend sequestration, which is scheduled to expire at the end of fiscal year 2030, through FY 2031. It is crucial that we secure significant Republican support for this bipartisan effort, as 60 votes will be needed to pass the bill in the Senate.

Additionally, with many hospitals facing sustained financial pressure during this pandemic and recoupment of accelerated payments scheduled to begin as early as next month, there is still a need to provide relief for hospitals with Medicare accelerated payment program loans. The sustained financial squeeze on the hospital field could result in the slowdown of vaccine distribution and administration, continued pressure on tired front-line caregivers and diminished access to care, especially in rural areas.

We encourage you to contact your senators – especially Republican senators – and urge them to **support the Medicare Sequester Relief Act** and **provide relief for those with Medicare accelerated payment program loans.**

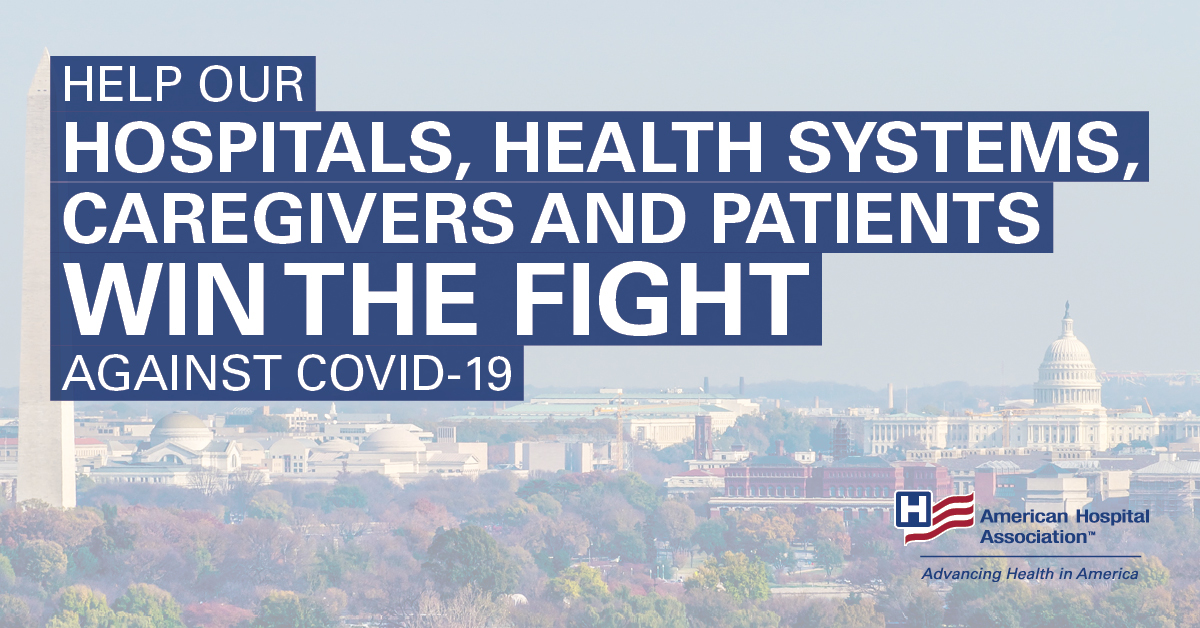
To that end, we have crafted messages and graphics for you to use across your organization’s social media platforms. Remember to tag your members of Congress and @AHAadvocacy and use #SupportHospitals in all your messages.

**Messages**

* In upcoming #healthcare legislation, we ask Congress to #SupportHospitals.
* RT and advocate for Congress to #SupportHospitals by supporting legislation that extends the moratorium on #Medicare sequester cuts.
* Extending the moratorium on #Medicare sequester cuts will provide much needed financial relief for hospitals, so they can continue caring for our communities. – RT & ask Congress to #SupportHospitals
* #Medicare sequester cuts will resume April 1 unless Congress takes action. RT and tell Congress to provide critical financial assistance to hospitals and health systems by eliminating these cuts. #SupportHospitals
* Congress must #SupportHospitals in upcoming #healthcare by extending the moratorium on #Medicare sequester cuts.
* Congress must provide additional support for #hospitals and health systems on the front lines addressing #COVID19 and the financial challenges it has brought. Tag your legislator and ask them to forgive #Medicare accelerated payments. #SupportHospitals
* In upcoming #healthcare legislation, Congress must allow #hospitals and health systems to recover and rebuild by forgiving #Medicare accelerated payments. #SupportHospitals
* Forgiving #Medicare accelerated payments in upcoming #healthcare legislation will provide a way for hospitals to recover and rebuild. – RT & ask Congress to #SupportHospitals
* #Hospitals and health systems are facing critical financial hardships during the #COVID19 pandemic. RT and ask Congress to #SupportHospitals and forgive #Medicare accelerated payments.

**Graphics**

*Twitter/LinkedIn*



*Facebook/Instagram*

