



Leading for Better Health

May 20, 2020

The Honorable Robert Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

On behalf of The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP), which represents 240 member institutions, I am writing to express the Pennsylvania hospital community's support for the Pandemic Responder Service Award Act which recognizes the health care professionals who have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During these challenging times, our health care heroes—the clinical, administrative and environmental services health care workers—are performing above and beyond the call of duty to take care of their patients and their communities. Each health care worker is making incredible sacrifices to meet the needs of Pennsylvania's citizens.

Your legislation would honor our health care heroes by offering a financial benefit to front line health care workers who responded to the COVID pandemic. Those pandemic responders would be able to use the award to pay off existing student loans, to obtain further education, or to establish a savings account to help health care workers purchase housing, start a business, save for retirement, or establish a children's savings account for their dependents.

HAP strongly supports the Pandemic Responder Service Award Act both as a means to recognize our health care heroes for their service during this public health emergency, and to help provide meaningful financial support for our health care workers and their families.

HAP's vision is "A Healthy Pennsylvania" and our hospital members are devoted to the duty behind that vision. Pennsylvania's strong and dedicated workforce has demonstrated their commitment to serving as the leading advocates for improving the health and welfare of the patients and communities they serve. Their efforts should be commended for keeping the vision of "A Healthy Pennsylvania" strong.

Thank you for your continued dedication to supporting hospitals, health systems, and health care workers across the Commonwealth in the midst of this crisis and in the recovery ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Carter".

Andy Carter
President and Chief Executive Officer