

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 29, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mullin,

Congratulations on your confirmation as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. I wish you every success as you begin your tenure in this important role.

I am writing to request the release of FEMA Public Assistance funding already approved for hospitals and health systems across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that incurred significant costs responding to COVID-19.

Pennsylvania's hospitals answered the call during the pandemic without hesitation. They expanded capacity under enormous pressure, protected their frontline workers, and kept essential care available to communities when it mattered most. The federal government made a commitment to reimburse them for those efforts. FEMA approved the funding. But unfortunately, nearly \$600 million that Pennsylvania health systems were promised remains unpaid.

These outstanding reimbursements continue to place a substantial financial strain on hospitals and health systems that are still recovering from the lasting impacts of the pandemic. Many providers took on significant debt, deferred critical infrastructure upgrades, and stretched staffing resources to meet emergency demands, all with the expectation that federal support would follow. The delay in disbursing these funds creates uncertainty for institutions that remain essential to both public health preparedness and everyday care delivery.

Timely release of these funds is not only a matter of honoring prior commitments, but also of strengthening the resilience of our healthcare system against future emergencies. Prompt action by the Department would send a clear signal that the federal government stands behind the providers who stood on the front lines during one of the most challenging public health crises in recent history.

I am grateful for your leadership and your commitment to getting results for the American people. I look forward to working together to get these reimbursements delivered.

Sincerely,



David H. McCormick
United States Senator

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