

Draft Messaging / Talking Points: feel free to edit for your particular situation.

Dear-----

I am writing to share an important concern that could have serious consequences for our local hospital and clinics. There is growing discussion about potential cuts to Medicare and Medicaid funding — cuts that would directly affect and limit the ability of the healthcare systems we rely on to provide essential healthcare services to our community.

Mee Memorial Healthcare System (MMHS) is the only hospital in South Monterey County and the only provider of emergency services within a 50-mile radius, making it a critical healthcare provider for this agricultural community. The Emergency Department alone serves thousands of visits each year, providing lifesaving care to residents who would otherwise have to travel significant distances to receive urgent medical attention.

In addition to emergency services, our hospital and its clinics offer a wide range of care — including diagnostic imaging, surgery, pediatrics, skilled nursing, and outpatient specialty care. Medicare and Medicaid funding is vital to maintaining these services and ensures that care is provided to seniors, low-income families, and other vulnerable members of our community who would otherwise have to travel long distances to receive care.

The impact of cuts to Medicare and Medicaid would reach far beyond healthcare for our community. MMHS is one of the largest employers in the region. If funding is cut, our local economy could take a significant hit.

Mee Memorial also plays a critical role in the region's emergency preparedness, serving as a backup facility for nearby areas, ensuring emergency care not only for civilians, but also for military personnel at Fort Hunter Liggett in the event of a disaster or major incident. Reductions in funding could compromise our hospital's ability to provide this essential support.

[Insert here: how reduced medical services or closure of MMHS will affect your business, staff members, community members, and / or family members]

Medicaid and Medicare are lifelines for rural Americans. I urge you to oppose funding cuts and to advocate for policies that strengthen these programs to ensure continued access to vital lifesaving care to our community.