

H. E Sen Ahmad Lawan
President of the Senate
Federal Republic of Nigeria,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone
Abuja

9, September 2020

Dear Sir,

RE: REDUCTION IN BASIC HEALTH CARE BUDGET

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, thank you for your continued leadership during this COVID-19 pandemic. This is truly an unprecedented time in Nigerian history, we appreciate the effort of the National Assembly to protect health care workers and Nigerian citizens. **To continue to enhance health care delivery to our most vulnerable communities especially in rural areas of Nigeria, we respectfully urge the National Assembly to reverse the cuts in basic health care budget and increase budget allocation for health to at least 5% of total national budget with a goal to allocate at least 15% of total budget to health in the next 5 years in accordance with the 2001 Abuja Declaration.**

We urge the National Assembly to recognize that now is not the time to implement any budget cuts that will exacerbate an already existing fragile health care system. COVID-19 pandemic is a reminder of how a microbe could destabilize robust economies, thus emphasizing the importance of investing in our health system. Advancing technology brings unique opportunities and challenges to health care. Nigeria must be ready to seize these opportunities and, be equipped to deal with challenges without always depending on outside help. Our organizations appreciate that there are competing interests but, we are deeply concerned that cuts to health care spending will decapitate existing infrastructure that will lead to worsening health care and catastrophic economic outcomes.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this request. Please forward any questions or comments related to this request to Dr. Iyore James (info@npagroup.org).

Respectfully,



For: The undersigned organizations
Iyore James, MD/MALD, FACS
President, Nigerian Physicians Advocacy Group

Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas
Canadian Association of Nigerian Physicians and Dentists
Medical Association of Nigerians Across Great Britain
National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives
National Association of Nigerian Nurses in North America
Nigerian Association of Pharmacists and Pharmaceutical Scientists in the Americas
Nigerian Medical Association
Nigerian Physicians Advocacy Group
Nigeria Physiotherapy Network
Occupational Therapists Association of Nigeria
Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria

