

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 18, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to you to express our deep concern regarding the impacts of the nationwide IV shortage due to the damage caused by Hurricane Helene. We are already receiving reports of patients feeling the impacts of reduced IV supplies, including delayed medical procedures. These harms will only deepen in the coming weeks if nothing is done to address the issue. We urge you to take immediate action to address these impacts and protect patients.

As you may be aware, Baxter International's North Cove site, located less than an hour from Asheville, North Carolina, is the largest manufacturer of IV fluids and dialysis solutions in the U.S. According to the company, their site was "significantly impacted by the rain and storm surge" from Hurricane Helene and is temporarily closed.¹ Baxter supplies roughly 60% of the IV fluids to hospitals in the U.S.²

Our offices have heard from Wisconsin hospitals and health systems who have already begun postponing and cancelling elective procedures for patients due to the impending shortage. We understand that Health and Human Services (HHS) has taken steps to reduce disruption and facilitate product allocation nationwide. However, more must be done to maintain access to this life-saving care. With more disruptions anticipated from Hurricane Milton, we ask your administration to take all available action to minimize the impact of this shortage on patient care and increase the supply of IV solutions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



BRYAN STEIL
Member of Congress



RON JOHNSON
United States Senator



TAMMY BALDWIN
United States Senator

¹ <https://www.baxter.com/baxter-newsroom/hurricane-helene-updates>

² <https://www.cnn.com/2024/10/09/health/iv-fluid-shortage-hospitals-hurricane-helene/index.html>



GLENN GROTHMAN
Member of Congress



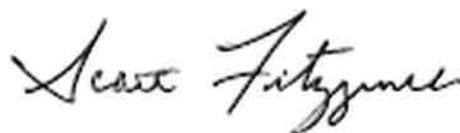
GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress



TOM TIFFANY
Member of Congress



MARK POCAN
Member of Congress



SCOTT FITZGERALD
Member of Congress



DERRICK VAN ORDEN
Member of Congress

CC: U.S. Food & Drug Administration