

October 8, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

I write to request your Administration take immediate action to increase the supply of intravenous (IV) and dialysis solutions. I am deeply concerned about the immediate and long-term impacts of the closure of Baxter International's facility in Marlon, NC, following Hurricane Helene, which produced approximately 60 percent of IV solutions in the United States.

IV solutions are critical to providing care at health facilities across the country, including hospitals and health systems. Unfortunately, due to the damage at the Baxter facility, I am hearing from hospitals in my state that they are being informed of supply issues and have been put on strict ordering restrictions. A prolonged shortage of IV and dialysis solutions would be disastrous for the health and safety of Arizonans and would make it more difficult for medical professionals to provide care.

While I understand that Baxter is working to address these supply issues, a shortage of IV solutions, if not actively addressed by your Administration, may continue for the foreseeable future. Therefore, I urge your Administration to consider the following actions to help Arizona's hospitals and health care providers keep Arizonans safe:

- Appoint a member of your Administration to address IV and dialysis solutions supply issues and serve as a point of contact for hospitals and health systems.
- Declare a national emergency and public health emergency.
- Declare an official shortage of IV solutions.
- Provide additional flexibility to hospitals and health systems to allow them to prepare IV solutions internally.
- Consider extending the expiration dates of IV solutions wherever possible.

In addition to the above actions to aid providers, additional actions will likely be needed to alleviate the supply issues moving forward. This may include invoking the Defense Production Act to improve domestic supply chains, as well as connecting international suppliers with health systems across the country.

Further action is urgently needed to avoid a more serious crisis. As of the writing of this letter, B. Braun's facility in Dayton Beach, FL, which manufactures an additional 23 percent of IV solutions in the United States, is in the Cone of Uncertainty for Hurricane Milton. It is critical that your Administration act immediately to address these issues, particularly if there is any damage to the B. Braun facility.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruben Gallego". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ruben Gallego
MEMBER OF CONGRESS