



April 1, 2020

Secretary Deborah Hagan
Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
100 W. Randolph, 9th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Secretary Hagan:

Thank you for your continued leadership during this pandemic and your commitment to protecting patient safety. We very much appreciate you and your staff's willingness to include us in discussions, and your staff's timely and helpful responsiveness to our physicians' inquiries.

For your information, ISMS has created an advisory council of physicians representing different specialties to discuss how to best help physicians stay on the front lines as we fight COVID-19, as well as how to mitigate issues arising from COVID-19 that could interrupt the delivery of care for patients who are suffering from other diseases and chronic conditions. Please do not hesitate to call upon this advisory group with any questions you may have. They stand ready to work with you, the Governor and Director Ezike in any capacity that you see fit.

We realize we are facing unprecedented times during this pandemic and are willing to support emergency measures at this time to ensure that health care professionals are available, but we remain concerned that our state's mission to protect the welfare of our citizens may be sacrificed if certain licensure standards are dramatically changed.

ISMS wants to be a partner and a resource in developing policies that will increase the workforce all the while ensuring patients, particularly those suffering from a chronic or other serious condition, are not being treated by someone who isn't trained to treat that condition or provide a certain medical service. This will be especially true for those seeking care outside of a hospital setting during this crisis, where physicians and other professionals are not working so closely together.

Moving forward, ISMS can offer constructive advice on how we can strengthen our work force without jeopardizing patient safety.

ISMS is looking forward to our continued partnership with your Department, and please know we are committed to supporting your efforts moving forward. Please let us know how we may assist you in getting Illinoisans through this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Erin O'Brien
Senior Vice President
Illinois State Medical Society

cc: Alexander R. Lerner