



March 26, 2020

The Honorable J.B. Pritzker
Governor, State of Illinois
State Capitol, Room 207
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker:

Physicians of the Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS) commend you for your leadership and the decisive actions taken to date to flatten the curve of COVID-19. Physicians stand ready to work with you to protect the health of all Illinoisans.

ISMS has consistently encouraged our retired physicians who maintain active licenses to volunteer their time at free clinics (https://www.isms.org/Resources/For_Physicians/Retired_Physician_Volunteer_Program/). We are stepping up our efforts to align with your recent call to action to help bring more retired physicians back into the workforce. Should you ever want our president, Dr. Paul Pedersen, to stand by you and talk publicly about this important initiative or any other matter, please do not hesitate to call on us.

We have also created within ISMS an advisory council of physicians representing all regions of the state and of 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. We must remember that there are many Illinoisans who are struggling to manage chronic diseases and debilitating conditions unrelated to COVID-19, and for which they continue to need medical attention. Please do not hesitate to call upon this advisory group with any questions you may have. They stand ready to work with you and your team in any capacity that you or Director Ezike may see fit.

To help protect everyone's health, and to insure that all clinical settings are able to survive and be available to patients, ISMS respectfully asks that you include financial support for physician clinics when federal assistance resources are allocated to the states. Additionally, many non-hospital based medical clinics are in need of personal protective equipment (PPE), just as hospitals are, and we respectfully ask that such clinics be included in any plans to procure and distribute PPE going forward. While physicians have put off elective procedures, we have a continued duty to treat those health conditions that need immediate attention, and any help that the state can provide is very much appreciated. We can provide you a list of those clinics who are seeking assistance.

Thank you for leadership. Again, we stand ready to work with you and your administration to protect the health of all Illinois residents.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Anderson, M.D.
Chair, Board of Trustees
Illinois State Medical Society

cc: Paul E. Pedersen, M.D.
Robert W. Panton, M.D.
Ngozi Ezike, M.D., Director, Illinois Department of Public Health
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