



March 18, 2020

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

Dear Governor Pritzker:

Physicians of the Illinois State Medical Society and hospital leadership from the Illinois Health and Hospital Association commend you for the actions you have taken to curb the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). As health care professionals and providers in this state, we stand ready to work with you to ensure the safety of all Illinoisans.

To help protect everyone's health we are respectfully asking you to consider issuing an Executive Order to require coverage and payment parity for unrestricted telehealth services rendered during this crisis. This will enable physicians and other health care professionals to continue to treat their patients without requiring patients to travel to the office or hospital. Not only will this ensure continuity of care for those patients being treated for their current health conditions, but will free up space for those patients who need to be treated for COVID-19 or other conditions that require in-office care. To ensure patients do not experience care disruption or unnecessary financial and administrative burdens during this crisis, telehealth requirements should be consistent with policies for in-person care delivery.

This is also an effective way to minimize crowding in offices and hospitals, reduce the risk of exposing patients with underlying health conditions to COVID-19, and reduce the need to use personal protective equipment, which as you know, is in short supply.

Thank you for your consideration with this important matter. Again, we stand ready to work with you to protect all Illinois residents.

Sincerely,

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

A.J. Wilhelmi  
President & CEO  
Illinois Health and Hospital A

cc: Sol Flores, Deputy Governor  
Ngozi Ezike, M.D., Director, Illinois Department of Public Health  
Robert H. Muriel, Director, Illinois Department of Insurance