March 24, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
Vice President Michael R. Pence  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump and Vice President Pence:

We are grateful for the whole-of-government approach that you and your Administration are taking to address the COVID-19 virus outbreak. It will require all levels of government – federal, state, and local – to take the actions necessary to enable the American people to prevail over this disease.

On behalf of 40,000 pharmacies operating across the country, and employing nearly three million Americans, including 155,000 pharmacists, we write to request your immediate assistance in removing barriers to care so we can be fully prepared to meet the demand of those affected by COVID-19.

Our pharmacies are on the front lines of this crisis, and our pharmacists are a highly trained army of professionals that serve the healthcare needs of millions of Americans each and every day. Our stores are a frequented centerpiece of everyday life in our communities, with locations on average only five miles from most Americans. But with this crisis having arrived urgently at the doorstep of our pharmacies, we urge you to not let our pharmacists be unnecessarily hamstrung by needless restrictions that prevent the Americans we serve from receiving care.

Our patients, and their loved ones, rely on our professionals for continuity of their care, and by taking a few key actions at the federal level – and by the governors taking similar actions in the states – we will be better prepared to serve this nation. So as federal and state governments take action to respond to COVID-19 and ensure continued access to essential medicines, we urge the following:

- Ensure that pharmacies can remain open using all means, including central fill sites, technology, and out-of-state professionals
- Authorize pharmacies to provide COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines in states
- Ensure expanded access to pharmacy care to reduce pressures on hospitals, physician practices, and urgent clinics
- Enable our locations to deliver therapies directly to patients, including future therapies that have yet to be developed.

Ours is the best healthcare delivery system in the world, and together we will deliver for every American who needs our care. Community pharmacies have played a major role in supporting expanded access to care and pharmacy continuity in some of our biggest national crises. But no event in our lifetime has matched what we are experiencing right now, and we will do our part in supporting every community in this great nation.
We appreciate your consideration of this request, and your leadership to preserve the health and welfare of every American.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Anderson, IOM, CAE
President & Chief Executive Officer

cc: Secretary Alex Azar, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi
House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer
House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

Governor Kay Ivey
Governor Mike Dunleavy
Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga
Governor Doug Ducey
Governor Asa Hutchinson
Governor Gavin Newsom
Governor Jared Polis
Governor Ned Lamont
Governor John Carney
Governor Ron DeSantis
Governor Brian Kemp
Governor Lou Leon Guerrero
Governor David Ige
Governor Brad Little
Governor JB Pritzker
Governor Eric Holcomb
Governor Kim Reynolds
Governor Laura Kelly
Governor Andy Beshear
Governor John Bel Edwards
Governor Janet Mills
Governor Larry Hogan
Governor Charlie Baker
Governor Gretchen Whitmer
Governor Tim Walz
Governor Tate Reeves
Governor Mike Parson
Governor Steve Bullock
Governor Pete Ricketts
Governor Steve Sisolak
Governor Chris Sununu
Governor Phil Murphy
Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor Andrew Cuomo
Governor Roy Cooper
Governor Doug Burgum
Governor Ralph Deleón Guerrero Torres
Governor Mike DeWine
Governor Kevin Stitt
Governor Kate Brown
Governor Tom Wolf
Governor Wanda Vázquez Garced
Governor Gina Raimondo
Governor Henry McMaster
Governor Kristi Noem
Governor Bill Lee
Governor Greg Abbott
Governor Gary Herbert
Governor Phil Scott
Governor Albert Bryan
Governor Ralph Northam
Governor Jay Inslee
Governor Jim Justice
Governor Tony Evers
Governor Mark Gordon