

Steven C. Anderson, IOM, CAE

President & Chief Executive Officer

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 DeLeon 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