



**Pennsylvania Chapter**



March 26, 2020

To the Members of the General Assembly:

The undersigned organizations request your leadership in establishing a Healthcare Coronavirus Emergency Response Fund to provide expeditious and comprehensive support to front-line providers as they address this unprecedented public health emergency.

The worldwide outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is placing an enormous strain on the Commonwealth and the residents of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania providers are at the center of the response, working around the clock to execute preparedness protocols and provide care.

We request your prompt action in aiding Pennsylvania providers—including all of the providers, entities, and organizations represented by the below signatories—in addressing this crisis. This includes significant and direct allocation of financial resources to support health care and human service workers on the front line.

This support is vitally important as we grapple with maintaining an adequate workforce, accessing critical supplies, enhancing infrastructure (including telehealth capabilities), augmenting capacity, and keeping the doors open to care for patients and our community during this emergency. We thank you for the recent support to the health care community of \$50 million for the purchase of medical equipment and supplies. However, as we continue to prepare for and respond to COVID-19, additional resources will be necessary. We look forward to working with you to address these pressing needs.

The needs for critical resources to support ongoing efforts to treat patients who test positive for COVID-19 and to prevent the further spread of the virus, are both short- and long-term.

The Healthcare Coronavirus Emergency Response Fund, accessible to all service providers, needs to be established to provide resources necessary to confront a worst-case scenario. This fund could be distributed by the state Department of Health, in collaboration with other agencies, and based on evaluation of needs. Funds not utilized could be returned to the state.



Pennsylvania Homecare Association



Pennsylvania Medical Society



REHABILITATION & COMMUNITY PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION



The Hospital + Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania

[The Urban Health Care Coalition of Pennsylvania](#)

Our health and human service providers are preparing to respond in a worst-case scenario. The opportunity has passed to “wait-and-see,” and action is needed now. Please act quickly and establish a dedicated fund to support our front line health care professionals.

Respectfully,

Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania

Healthcare Council of Western Pennsylvania

Health Federation of Philadelphia

LeadingAge PA

Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians

Pennsylvania Ambulatory Surgery Association

Pennsylvania Association for Behavioral Healthcare

Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers

Pennsylvania Association of Certified Nurse Midwives

Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers Society

Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Pennsylvania Chapter, American College of Physicians

Pennsylvania Chapter, National Association of Social Workers

Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health

Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners

Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians

Pennsylvania Health Care Association

Pennsylvania Homecare Association

Pennsylvania Medical Society

Pennsylvania Optometric Association

Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association

Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association

Pennsylvania Podiatric Medical Association

Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society

Pennsylvania Psychological Association

Pennsylvania Rural Health Association

Pennsylvania Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care

Pennsylvania State Nurses Association

Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants

Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association

Safety-Net Association of Pennsylvania

The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania

The Urban Health Care Coalition