



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



PENNSYLVANIA
OPTOMETRIC
ASSOCIATION



Pennsylvania
Pharmacists
Association



PENNSYLVANIA
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



LEADING THE WAY



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