



ADVOCATE. ADVANCE. LEAD.

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March 25, 2020

The Honorable Ron Johnson
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Sensenbrenner
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Kind
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gwen Moore
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Pocan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Glenn Grothman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Gallagher
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bryan Steil
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Members of Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation:

Thank you for working to include urgently needed support for hospitals and health systems in the developing 3rd COVID-19 stimulus package. As WHA mentioned in our March 19th letter to the delegation, we continue to be in urgent need of assistance to equip Wisconsin's hospitals and health system with personal protective equipment (PPE), testing supplies, and funding to replace the severe revenue shortfalls that have resulted from hospitals canceling most elective procedures.

When I last formally wrote to you, reports had emerged that suggested the third COVID package did not yet include necessary funding for the health care sector. We are extremely pleased to see reports announcing a deal has been reached and that the package will include, among other things:

- \$100 billion in direct aid to hospitals and other health care institutions on the front lines to cover costs related to the COVID-19 public health crisis.
- \$16 billion to replenish the Strategic National Stockpile of PPE, pharmaceuticals, and other medical supplies that help supply health care entities facing shortages.
- \$4.3 billion to support federal, state, and local public health agency response efforts. WHA values their significant roles to coordinate and assist with hospital emergency response and efforts to track and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- \$1 billion for the Defense Production Act to assist supply chains and better enable our manufacturing industry to ramp up production of needed supplies. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing efforts with

WHA to engage Wisconsin's manufacturing and business industry and your work to lift regulations so that these supplies can come online as soon as they are able to be produced.

- \$250 million to expand the Hospital Preparedness Program's emergency preparedness efforts. This funding has been trimmed in recent years and a boost will help replenish resources we are using to coordinate Wisconsin's continued COVID-19 response.

As you know, Wisconsin hospitals and health systems have heeded the Surgeon General's call on March 14th and CDC's March 18th guidelines on postponing non-essential elective surgeries. While these decisions are crucial to preserving PPE, increasing treatment capacity, and curtailing the spread of COVID-19, particularly in health care facilities, they have also created growing cash flow issues among our members. A number of our members are being pushed to the financial brink and have already made difficult decisions to furlough staff in order to keep the doors open. At the same time, they must remain ready for what is coming next and will face continued financial and staffing pressures. While this is impacting everyone, our rural members are particularly concerned due to their relatively lower volumes of COVID-19 cases thus far.

WHA applauds you for your hard work to build a package with bipartisan consensus and looks forward to this legislation swiftly making its way through the U.S. Senate and House. At the same time, we know the real work to get these resources where they are most needed is only beginning.

We ask that you remain diligently involved in working with the federal agencies who will be setting up the framework to get this funding out the door. It is important that these resources be distributed fairly and efficiently to all states and that Wisconsin is not disadvantaged by any arbitrary formulas or distribution designs. WHA also requests your assistance in obtaining guidelines and details on how our members, particularly those in the most financial distress, can apply for these funds and resources.

Thank you for your continued work to help Wisconsin get through this crisis.

Sincerely,



Eric Borgerding,
WHA President & CEO