



February 27, 2020

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor & Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor & Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

The Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC) appreciates the opportunity to submit this letter regarding the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions hearing on “An Emerging Disease Threat: How the U.S. Is Responding to COVID-19, the Novel Coronavirus.”

HLC is a coalition of chief executives from all disciplines within American healthcare. It is the exclusive forum for the nation’s healthcare leaders to jointly develop policies, plans, and programs to achieve their vision of a 21st century healthcare system that makes affordable high-quality care accessible to all Americans. Members of HLC – hospitals, academic health centers, health plans, pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, laboratories, biotech firms, health product distributors, post-acute care providers, home care providers, and information technology companies – advocate for measures to increase the quality and efficiency of healthcare through a patient-centered approach.

As the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak continues to spread rapidly across the globe, HLC members share your concerns over this significant threat to public health and remain vigilant during this public health emergency. Our members recognize the importance of public-private partnerships, especially during emergency preparedness and response, and have been engaged on all fronts to contain and to prevent further spread of COVID-19.

To date, HLC members have contributed their scientific expertise to research and development efforts and have partnered with agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, such as the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, to accelerate the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and treatments for the infection. Additionally, our members have provided monetary and in-kind contributions (surgical masks, ventilators, disinfectants, etc.) for COVID-19 relief, taken steps to protect the healthcare supply chain, and have screened and treated

patients that have recently traveled to China for COVID-19. HLC recognizes the importance of disaster preparedness and response and is holding ongoing discussions with agencies within the federal government including the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Homeland Security to discuss collaboration on improving the nation's readiness to respond to disasters and catastrophic events.

As a diverse, multisector organization with representation from all disciplines within American healthcare, we stand ready to be a resource for you as this public health emergency continues to evolve. Thank you for examining this important issue and please feel free to contact Tina Grande, at (202) 449-3433 or tgrande@hlc.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary R. Grealy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "R".

Mary R. Grealy
President