



August 12, 2020

The Honorable Jacky Rosen
U.S. Senate
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Marco Rubio
U.S. Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator's Rosen and Rubio:

On behalf of the Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC), I am writing to express our support for S. 3595, the "Ensuring Understanding of COVID-19 to Protect Public Health Act." Thank you for introducing this important legislation that would direct the National Institutes of Health to conduct a longitudinal study on mild, moderate, and severe cases of COVID-19 to ensure we gain a full understanding of both the short and long-term health impacts of 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.

The COVID-19 outbreak continues to spread across the globe and, while showing signs that its curve may be flattening in hard-hit parts of the United States, it appears this contagion will remain a significant public health challenge in our nation for some time to come. Both the scientific and public health communities have taken great strides to better understand the short-term COVID-19 health impacts, including negative effects on mental health and exacerbating existing health disparities in vulnerable communities, however, much still remains unknown about the virus.

We believe this legislation is a great first step to better understand COVID-19 related health outcomes and symptoms, including unknown variables such as the long-term impact on lung function and immune response, and the impact of certain treatments. This information is essential for healthcare providers to develop effective, comprehensive treatments for all patients and will better prepare the healthcare system to address future pandemics and other public health crises.

Thank you again for your work on S. 3595, the “Ensuring Understanding of COVID-19 to Protect Public Health Act.” HLC looks forward to continuing to collaborate with you on our shared priorities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Debbie Witchey at (202) 449-3435 or dwitchey@hlc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary R. Grealy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" being the most prominent.

Mary R. Grealy
President