



July 31, 2020

The Honorable James Clyburn, Chairman
The Honorable Steve Scalise, Ranking Member
House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis
2157 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Clyburn and Ranking Member Scalise,

The Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC) appreciates the work your committee has done in examining the COVID-19 health pandemic and future responses to ensure there is an effective strategy to face future health challenges.

The 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. We are uniquely positioned to address disaster preparedness comprehensively from all perspectives in the healthcare industry.

HLC members are pleased to announce that we are working with the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy on an initiative aimed at strengthening the public-private partnership that is essential to disaster preparedness and response. As part of this initiative, as we are also working with the Deloitte consulting firm to bring its expertise to our endeavor.

Like you, we believe there is much to be learned from the collective response thus far to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the summer and fall of 2020, we will be bringing together the expertise of the Duke-Margolis Center, the multisector perspectives of the HLC membership, and ideas from key individuals and organizations – from the public sector as well as the Administration and Congress – involved in the current pandemic response to assemble a set of innovative, integrated solutions that will, one, determine what is working well in the current COVID-19 response and needs to be maintained and even strengthened and, two, what aspects of our disaster preparedness and response require fresh thinking and new approaches.

Our work will be concentrated in three primary areas:

- **Supply chain readiness.** Particularly in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, we witnessed difficulties and disruptions in the distribution of critical goods and supplies including personal protective equipment and testing supplies. It is essential that we call upon the expertise of the private sector to build a disaster-ready supply chain that can work with government at all levels to ensure that our nation[']s needs are met and that future treatments and vaccines can be delivered safely and expeditiously.
- **Care delivery.** We have learned a great deal during the current pandemic about how to expand healthcare reach to meet extraordinary escalations in patient demands. It is essential to translate those lessons into a systemic approach that incorporates components such as telehealth, workforce mobility, adequacy and resiliency, and financial stability for healthcare providers during periods when normal revenue streams are disrupted.
- **Data and evidence generation.** Our ability to respond to a nationwide health crisis relies heavily on the ability to access and analyze data rapidly and effectively. This must involve well-coordinated public-private cooperation to gather data and utilize it to improve patient care, strengthen public health surveillance, and accelerate biomedical innovation while protecting the privacy of individuals.

Through this initiative, contributions from the nation's premier experts in both healthcare and disaster preparedness will be coalesced into a set of specific recommendations and commitments that will strengthen our nation's preparedness and response for future health crises. We will be sharing ideas with your committee as this initiative progresses.

As the committee moves forward on steps to ensure future disaster preparedness, we stand ready to be a trusted resource that encompasses the perspective of all stakeholders in the private sector committed to working in collaboration to be better prepared should another pandemic occur. Thank you for your efforts to gather information to ensure our country remains vigilant. HLC looks forward to continuing to collaborate with you on our shared priorities. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Debbie Witchey at dwitchey@hlc.org or Tina Olson Grande at tgrande@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