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March 23, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Vice-President Michael Pence  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-222, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Secretary Alex Azar  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Acting Secretary Chad F. Wolf  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear President Trump, Vice-President Pence, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Secretaries Azar and Wolf:


The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) represents more than 500,000 critical and progressive care nurses. A member of our board, Theresa M. Davis, PhD, RN, NE-BC, CHTP, FAAN, was honored to join a March 18 meeting of the White House Coronavirus Task Force that included President Trump and Vice-President Pence. In that meeting, she described the strategies critical care teams employ to save patients during life-threatening critical illness. She also made clear the urgent need for accelerated distribution of protective and lifesaving equipment. We write to you now to reinforce the need for urgent action. AACN asks that you immediately use all available measures to increase the supply and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), medical supplies and other equipment we need to save lives.

A significant number of Americans infected with the novel coronavirus will experience life-threatening respiratory distress. Many will require mechanical ventilation to keep them breathing, emergency medications, and equipment to support cardiovascular function while they fight the virus. In the absence of adequate access to ventilators and other life-saving equipment, patients who could be saved will die.

As you read this, our members are telling us they do not have adequate supplies. This puts them and their colleagues in danger of contracting coronavirus as they provide life-saving treatment to patients with COVID-19. The President's call to action for social distancing is a key step in preventing transmission of the virus. Health care teams, however, cannot practice social distancing with infected patients. Without the appropriate PPE, our highly trained critical and progressive care nurses who have unique expertise to save American lives will become ill themselves, reducing the healthcare workforce. Your immediate action is vital to ensure essential hospital personnel can continue to serve their communities.

Your position in government is the result of your hard work and dedication to our country. Now is the moment when you can use that position to change the course of this crisis, protect your constituents and mitigate the toll of this pandemic. Without your support and aggressive action, our country faces a devastating loss of lives.

Sincerely,

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

Megan E. Brunson, MSN, RN, CNL, CCRN-CSC  
President, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses