



The Honorable Phil Murphy
Governor of the State of New Jersey
125 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625

March 27, 2020

Dear Governor Murphy,

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity and all our activists across New Jersey, we encourage you to take swift and targeted action to address the legitimate public safety and economic challenges associated with the spread of the novel coronavirus.

State and local officials across the country, including those in New Jersey, have taken action to address concerns, some more effectively than others.

We commend you for enacting A3860 to expand telemedicine services and for taking executive action to renew expired state-administered health licenses for medical professionals. Both actions will help expand access to critical health care services.

But there is still more we can do.

The Mercatus Center at George Mason University recently prereleased its Healthcare Openness and Access Project [research paper](#) that ranked the fifty states and the District of Columbia in terms of access to health care. New Jersey ranked 51st. We must fix this immediately. Loosening regulatory restrictions that limit access to health care for the duration of this emergency is a good next step.

Americans for Prosperity on March 17 issued a [guidance memo](#) for state-based reforms that policymakers should adopt to help respond to the spread of COVID-19 and expand access to critical health care services for those who need it.

In accordance with that memo, Americans for Prosperity encourages you to take executive action to:

- **Lift licensing barriers to allow health care providers to work in the states with greatest need, regardless of the state in which they are licensed.** This will free medical professionals to fully provide the services they are trained to provide and increase access to health care services.
- **Renew all expired state-administered health licenses, permits, certifications, and registrations for the duration of the health emergency.** This will free medical professionals to fully provide the services they are trained to provide and increase access to health care services.
- **Lift regulatory barriers on telehealth and telemedicine for all patients, including those on public health programs such as Medicaid.** Providers who deliver remote patient monitoring telehealth services and who deliver telehealth through phone calls, personal messages, fax, or email should be reimbursed under Medicaid. This will allow medical professionals to provide services to a larger number of patients while also limiting the potential spread of the virus which could result from traditional, in-person office visits.



- **Waive scope of practice restrictions for nurses and non-physician providers.** For the duration of the health emergency, physicians assistants should be able to practice without physical supervision and nurse practitioners should be able to prescribe medications without completing 2,000 hours of physician-supervised practice. This will empower these health care professionals to deliver more within hospitals and provide more care in patients' homes.
- **Eliminate government restrictions on the number of hospital beds, air ambulance, ambulatory surgery centers, CT scanners, or other health services.** Certificate of need mandates put unnecessary caps on these essential health care needs.

The above actions will position New Jersey to rapidly address the public health emergency effectively. Numerous states have already adopted such measures. Ensuring that high-risk populations have access to critical health care services is a priority for governments and communities across the country.

Thank you for your attention to this emergency. We recognize the challenging position you are in and the demands this emergency brings. We are hopeful that together, we will effectively overcome the challenges we face.

Sincerely,
Tony Howley
State Director
Americans for Prosperity New Jersey