



The Honorable Jared Polis
Governor of the State of Colorado
200 E. Colfax Ave., Rm. 136
Denver, CO 80203

April 15, 2020

Dear Governor Polis,

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity-Colorado, The LIBRE Initiative, and our organizations' activists across the state, we urge you to take additional action to swiftly address the legitimate public safety and economic challenges associated with the spread of the novel coronavirus.

We commend you for taking executive action to lift licensing regulations that prohibited medical professionals from practicing across state lines. That action will help expand access to critical health care services.

We recognize that compared to other states, Coloradans face fewer regulatory restrictions to health care. 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. Colorado ranked 1st. But there is still more we can do. Loosening additional regulatory restrictions that limit access to health care for the duration of this emergency is a good next step.

On March 17, Americans for Prosperity 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, we are encouraging you to:

- **Allow licensed health care practitioners, as well as doctors and nurses in training, from other countries to freely practice in Colorado.** This will increase the availability of medical professionals to provide care and increase access to health services.
- **Lift regulatory barriers on telehealth and telemedicine for all patients, including those on public health programs such as Medicaid.** Providers who deliver store-and-forward telehealth services should be reimbursed under Medicaid, better positioning them to forward patient data to other providers for further consultation. Clinical nurse specialists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and nurse midwives should also be able to deliver telehealth to Medicaid patients. These reforms 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 physician supervision and nurse practitioners should be able to prescribe medications without completing 1,000 hours of physician-supervised practice. This will empower these health care professionals to deliver more within hospitals and provide more care in patients' homes.

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

As reforms are enacted to address the immediate threat to public health, government should also consider how communities and businesses across the country have been coming together in extraordinary ways to meet the public health and safety needs of the current moment. Policymakers, activists, and businesses all have a role to play to see us through this pandemic. Businesses are especially in a position to adapt and innovate to get help to the people who need it, while still protecting public health.

We encourage you to consider these four guidelines when thinking about the role of business at this time:

- The question regarding the role that business can play is one that needs to be addressed. We must recognize the infeasibility of businesses operating as they were before the coronavirus while acknowledging that shutting down businesses will prevent people from responding effectively.
- The choice between “business as usual” and “close all businesses” is a false choice. Businesses must quickly define the conditions under which they can responsibly operate in order to continue to employ people and produce the products and services Coloradans rely upon, while protecting public health.
- Business leaders, along with public health experts, policy makers, and employees need to develop standards that businesses can use to help determine whether they can operate in a manner that protects public health. These determinations should be general guidelines because of the different challenges each business faces given their industry and location.
- What’s needed is fast action that unites people behind real solutions. The extremes that are emerging in this discussion are unhelpful. We should neither ban business activity indefinitely nor should we demand a date when businesses will function as they did prior to the coronavirus.

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,

Jesse Mallory
Americans for Prosperity-Colorado

Angel Merlos
The LIBRE Initiative