



April 7, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan, Governor
State of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: COVID-19 Financial Assistance – Grant Program

Dear Governor Hogan:

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in the State, is sending this letter as an urgent request to reinstitute the COVID-19 Grant Program to specifically provide financial relief to the physician community. Unfortunately, many in the physician community had not yet applied for the Grant Program, which is now closed to new applicants. This was not an oversight on the part of the physician community but a reflection of the uncertainty of this pandemic on physicians given the timing of the various executive orders and directives issued by the Administration.

Specifically, until the Directive issued by Secretary Neall on March 23rd and the “Stay at Home” Executive Order of March 30th, physicians were still attempting to manage patients through a combination of telehealth and medically necessary office visits. However, despite trying to increase the use of telehealth, patient volumes have now significantly decreased. Many offices are now facing extreme financial distress and even potential bankruptcy. To complicate this matter, unlike other businesses, patients still need the availability of their physician, therefore physicians continue to make themselves available.

MedChi has been working hard to assist our physicians. Not only is our concern managing our patients through this pandemic but to ensure that physicians can continue to serve patients following this pandemic. However, it is now clear that we need your help. Therefore, we are urging you to provide additional funding to offices, either through additional monies being allocated to the COVID-19 Grant Program specifically for physicians or through other means.

As always, MedChi appreciates your leadership and continues to value the partnership that we have forged to succeed against this virus. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gene M. Ransom, III
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Robert R. Neall, Secretary, Maryland Department of Health