

CRITICAL CARE SOCIETIES COLLABORATIVE (CCSC)



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE CRITICAL CARE SOCIETIES COLLABORATIVE TO THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) AND LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT APRIL 2, 2020

The Critical Care Societies Collaborative, comprised of the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN), American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST), the American Thoracic Society (ATS), and the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM), acknowledges the efforts of the Federal government to address the COVID-19 crisis through actions aimed at stemming the spread of the virus and protecting the lives of healthcare workers. We applaud the steps you have taken to use the Defense Production Act, particularly the order for General Motors to produce ventilators.

To further protect the well-being of the United States against COVID-19, we must ensure the safety of the 18 million plus physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists and other healthcare workers. The lack of sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) and other life-saving equipment (e.g., ventilators) is putting the healthcare system, individual healthcare workers, and patients at risk. The current projections of 100,000-240,000 U.S. deaths can be reduced if these supplies and equipment are available. Without it, not only will thousands of lives be lost, but this crisis will be prolonged, forever changing the healthcare system, placing a heavy burden on the nation's economy and the financial well-being of its citizens.

As a unified group of critical care professionals who are caring for patients infected with COVID-19, we implore the Federal government to take all available actions to accelerate the mass production and coordinated distribution of PPE and life-saving equipment to healthcare facilities nationwide. This includes authorizing the full enactment of the Defense Production Act so American manufacturing and other businesses can be called upon to contribute vital resources.

Our members and healthcare colleagues are telling us they do not have enough supplies and are appealing to us, their professional associations, for help in securing these supplies from our government. Without appropriate PPE, the very people charged with caring for the patients are becoming the patients. As a result, the healthcare workforce is reduced every day. Your immediate action is vital to ensure essential healthcare personnel are healthy and can continue to serve their communities. Further, your actions will ensure they have the necessary ventilators and other equipment required to provide life-saving care.

You are in the unique position to change the course of this crisis, protect our country and its citizens, and mitigate the toll of this pandemic. We look forward to your support and aggressive action to mitigate a devastating loss of lives and a negative long-term financial impact to our country.