

March 27, 2020

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In Texas, all hospitals and health systems are impacted by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic – urban hospitals, rural hospitals, investor-owned hospitals, teaching hospitals and community hospitals. Every hospital and health system in the state is taking extraordinary steps to prepare and respond to this pandemic, and they are using every available resource to do so.

The national emergency invokes the use of the Stafford Act of 1988, bringing critical Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance. Unfortunately, the Stafford Act prohibits investor-owned hospitals from qualifying for FEMA assistance. As has been the case in numerous emergencies, such as Hurricane Harvey, investor-owned hospitals have always cared for patients and their communities and responded to these emergencies with critical resources.

We respectfully ask you to immediately designate investor-owned hospitals as an “essential service provider” under Section 427 of the Stafford Act and allow FEMA to assist these critical hospitals. They are on the frontlines, providing much-needed care and filling a critical role in our work to prevent the spread.

Thank you for your continued actions to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



Ted Shaw
President/CEO
Texas Hospital Association