

April 6, 2020

Hon. Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

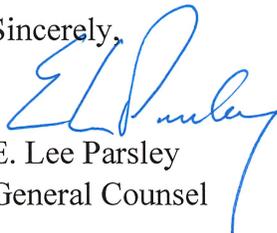
Texans for Lawsuit Reform (TLR) joins the request made by the Texas Medical Association (TMA), Texas Association for Patient Access (TAPA), Texas Hospital Association (THA), and others, in asking you to issue an executive order providing liability protection during the period of the declared disaster related to the COVID-19 pandemic for physicians and other healthcare providers.

These healthcare professionals are literally risking their lives to care for Texans suffering from a lethal virus. At the same time, plaintiff attorneys already are advertising for clients to file lawsuits related to the healthcare industry's response to the virus. The citizens of Texas cannot reasonably expect healthcare professionals to work under the threat of *both* death *and* litigation. Under these circumstances, it would be entirely reasonable for healthcare workers to ignore—rather than answer—the call to service, leaving Texans without necessary care during a time of crisis.

To encourage healthcare workers to *continue* to work extraordinary hours under extraordinary conditions, we believe the State of Texas should assure them that they will not face a lawsuit unless their conduct was reckless or they engaged in intentional, wanton or willful misconduct, as requested by the TMA, TAPA and THA. We also agree that COVID-19 related lawsuit aimed at the healthcare industry should be postponed until the crisis abates, so as to allow the industry to continue to provide critical care to Texans stricken by the virus.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



E. Lee Parsley
General Counsel