



August 2, 2021

Frontline Worker Pay Working Group Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA) and its more than 11,000 member physicians and physicians-in-training, I am writing to extend MMA's appreciation of this Working Group's careful consideration over the allocation of \$250 million in financial relief to those frontline workers who have sacrificed so much during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MMA's members have been on the frontline of this pandemic from the start, risking their personal health and well-being and that of their families to best serve their patients. Many of our members have faced direct exposure to the virus as they worked alongside other frontline healthcare workers to provide the best possible care to those in need. Many physicians also faced furloughs, cuts in salary/income, and other changes in their benefits. Nevertheless, the MMA recognizes that physicians, by and large, were able to weather the financial impact of COVID-19. With that in mind, I strongly encourage this Working Group to give priority to non-physician healthcare workers as the primary recipients of these funds.

Non-physician healthcare workers rose – and continue to rise – to the challenges of COVID-19. They faced personal exposure and/or infection, cared for isolated patients, and many were the final witnesses to patient deaths. Although other essential workers made sacrifices and served our communities admirably, the MMA urges this Work Group to dedicate these funds to our healthcare colleagues on the frontlines.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer thoughts on this important matter. These funds are needed to provide support for the critical healthcare staff who are helping us get through this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Peitso, MD

President

Minnesota Medical Association