

2019-2020

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Pierre M. Désy, MPH, CAE

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

The Honorable Alex M. Azar, II
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Dr. Mark T. Esper
Secretary
Department of Defense
1000 Defense – Pentagon
Washington, Dc 20301

The Honorable Peter T. Gaynor
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Federal Center Plaza
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dears Secretaries Azar and Esper and Administer Gaynor,

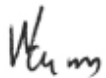
We write to urge the rapid implementation of the funding provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) for personal protective equipment (PPE) for physicians, nurses and all health care and hospital personnel that are working to care for those who have been diagnosed with COVID-19. The billions of dollars allocated to the Department of Defense, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the CARES Act need to be spent by the Federal government immediately to provide our nation's hospitals and their healthcare providers with new, replenished supplies of N95 respirators, isolation gowns, isolations masks, surgical masks, and eye protection.

Healthcare personnel caring for COVID-19 patients need to wear PPEs to stay healthy and not become infected themselves. We cannot win the war against this virus if those on the front lines are getting sick. For the best protection, healthcare providers need to be able to follow the standard infection control guidelines of using one set of PPE per patient. We need the Federal government to engage with suppliers this week, using these funds and the authorities granted under the Defense Production Act to increase the available supply of PPE.

We also understand that FEMA and its coordinating bodies are working diligently to create a national tracking system for available PPE to better understand the available supply and direct it to areas in need. We ask that this information also be shared with national medical societies to allow us to in turn share that information with our members. This will allow for better local planning and also allow for our members to manage PPE inventory.

We appreciate your work on this issue and using the funding to increase the supply of PPE. If we may be of assistance in any way as our country battles this COVID-19 virus, please do not hesitate to contact Pierre Désy, MPH, CAE, SGO CEO at pierre.desy@sgo.org or 312-235-4055.

Sincerely,



Warner K. Huh, MD
SGO President

Names of organizations:

American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL)
American Urogynecologic Society (AUGS)
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)
American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM)
International Gynecologic Cancer Society (IGCS)
Society of Family Planning (SFP)
Society of Gynecologic Surgeons (SGS)
Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO)