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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State Rep. Joe Runions
District 37

March 22, 2020

The Honorable Mike Parson
Governor of Missouri
Missouri Capitol, Room 216
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Governor Parson:

As the only state elected official currently hospitalized with COVID-19, I feel a duty to share my experience as I begin the long recovery from this illness and urge you to do everything within your power to prevent Missouri's hospitals and medical staff from becoming overwhelmed during this pandemic.

A top concern of my doctors at St. Joseph Hospital in Kansas City, who have asked me to seek your assistance, is the possibility they will run out of vital supplies, especially personal protective equipment. Since I am in isolation, every time a doctor or nurse comes in to check on me, they must put on all manner of gear to protect themselves. However, stocks of that equipment are rapidly running low, and doctors are deeply concerned about whether those stocks will be replenished fast enough to keep up with demand.

Our hospitals need these supplies. Doctors don't want to limit in-room care to COVID-19 patients, but if they run out of supplies, they won't be able to come in at all to protect their own safety. We must not allow this to happen.

I have witnessed first-hand how much of these supplies are being used up treating COVID-19, and I am just one patient. I'd say they are using 20 sets of supplies on me every day. The process of getting these supplies directly to hospitals must be greatly speeded up.

My doctors also tell me there still aren't enough testing kits. The quicker patients get tested, the quicker they can get the proper treatment. Please, do whatever is necessary to expedite the availability of testing kits. I have no doubt expanded testing will save lives.

Thank you for considering my requests as you work to stop the spread of this illness in our state.

Sincerely,

State Rep. Joe Runions
District 37