



CALEDONIA
SENIOR LIVING & MEMORY CARE



March 16th 2020

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor of Illinois
100 W Randolph St,
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Pritzker,

As the leaders of four not-for-profit nursing homes and senior living campuses in the western suburbs of Chicago, we, the undersigned, heartily support the actions that you and your team have taken in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Thank you for acting to protect the most vulnerable citizens of Illinois, seniors living in long-term care communities. We write to support your work. As a matter of **extreme urgency**, we request that COVID-19 testing kits and personal protective equipment (PPE) are made available to people who work in senior care in Illinois, as quickly as possible.

Collectively our communities represent 400 years of service to Illinois, we employ more than 750 people and we provide care to more than 1,200 seniors. It is on their behalf, and their families, that we write with this **urgent** request.

As we have seen at the Life Care Center of Kirkland in Washington State, this virus can devastate. Our hardworking teams are doing all we can to ensure the safety of the seniors we serve. We remain committed to best practices and to being informed by the very latest guidance from health experts, especially IDPH. However, in order to fully tighten up the precautions that communities like ours have in place, the field of senior care needs better access to testing and more PPE.

The best way to protect and ensure the health and safety of the people who live in long-term care, is to protect and test the people who work in long term care. We request that you make, as your first and highest priority, COVID-19 test kits and more PPE available to the field of senior care in Illinois as quickly as possible. Please, stop at nothing.

Thank you for your leadership during these challenging times.

Sincerely,


Gus Noble, *President*
Caledonia Senior Living


John Larson, *CEO*
Cantata Adult Life


Terri Bowen, *CEO*
King Bruweart House


Jay Biere, *CEO*
Plymouth Place

cc. US Senators Tammy Duckworth & Richard Durbin, US Senators for Illinois
Congressmen Dan Lipinski & Jesus Garcia, US House of Representatives
Senators John F Curran, Kimberly A Lightford & Steven Landek , Illinois Senate
Representatives LaShawn K Ford, Celina Villanueva, Elizabeth Hernandez & Michael Zalewski, Illinois House of Representatives
Commissioners Jeffrey Tobolski & Sean Morrison, Cook County Board of Commissioners
Mayor Hubert Hermanek, Jr., North Riverside
Dr. Ngozi Ezike, Director, Illinois Department of Public Health
Karen Messer, President, Leading Age, Illinois