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November 20, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,


The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) is comprised of 102 NCI-designated, academic, and freestanding cancer centers in the United States and Canada. AACI is accelerating progress against cancer by empowering North America's leading cancer centers in their shared mission to alleviate suffering. Health care providers at AACI cancer centers care for a particularly vulnerable patient population: many patients with cancer are immunosuppressed, and most have serious co-morbidities that increase their risk of contracting COVID-19. Cancer patients also experience poor outcomes after infection with the virus.

To ensure the success of a COVID-19 vaccine in the U.S., we must make significant strides to control the virus. We are encouraged by the recent news of two vaccines that have shown 90-percent or higher effectiveness in late-stage clinical trials. However, with COVID-19 case numbers on the rise as we enter the holiday season, we believe it is more important than ever for your administration to collaborate with the transition team of President-elect Biden to share vital information about the coronavirus.

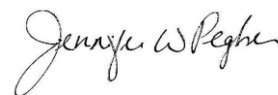
We are also hopeful about Operation Warp Speed, and firmly believe its success hinges on openly sharing information on the supply of therapeutics, testing supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE), and ventilators; hospital bed capacity; and workforce availability with the Biden administration. From day one, the incoming administration will need access to key information related to our Strategic National Stockpile, Operation Warp Speed progress, and plans for the distribution of therapeutics and vaccines.

During the remainder of your presidential term, you have the potential to save an incalculable number of lives. We urge you to open the lines of communication with the Biden transition team to ensure rapid progress against this devastating virus and preserve the legacy of the Trump administration.

Sincerely,



Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD
AACI President



Jennifer W. Pegher, MA
AACI Executive Director