



Access to Care Coalition

April 23, 2020

The Honorable Philip Murphy
Governor of the State of New Jersey
225 W State St, Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy:

On behalf of the Access to Care Coalition, a collaboration of the state's physician specialty societies, including the Medical Society of New Jersey, we applaud you for your leadership in the face of this global pandemic. Given your daily affirmation of front- line physicians and your recognition of what physicians are up against as clinicians, as well as small business owners, the physician community requests your attention and assistance. We are approaching a June 15 quarterly tax payment for our physician owned Ambulatory Care Facilities and are requesting a necessary extension.

While many ASFs have closed completely, some remain open but only for the very limited types of surgery allowed under EO 109. It is also important to highlight that most of our state's ASFs are physician owned and have complied with your request to provide the state with its inventory of PPE, ventilators, respirators, and anesthesia machines. Even with EO 109's effective freeze on revenue, the ASF quarterly tax payment remains due on June 15. With the professional and economic strain on our physician community combating the virus on the front lines and operating small businesses using our cash-on-hand to maintain payroll and other expenses, it is unconscionable to be expected to pay a significant tax during this time. We are asking for a 9-month extension for the June 15 tax payment. It is important to note that an ASF's tax assessment must be paid in full by June 15 or its license will not be renewed by NJDOH -- and New Jersey needs all of our ASFs to be fully operational as we transition back to scheduling elective procedures.

We are raising this issue with you as the Medical Society of New Jersey's request for relief from this tax deadline was summarily denied on April 15 by the Department of Treasury (see attached Treasury response). However, on April 21 the New Jersey Department of Health issued an extension of the due date for Calendar Year 2019 Annual Financial Reports for ASFs to July 15, 2020 recognizing the burden our physicians are bearing at this time (see attached NJDOH letter). This conflicting messaging has also created confusion among our state's ASFs.

It is important to note that this 2.95 percent tax on the gross receipts of ambulatory care centers, which was originally levied in 2004, has seen increases in its cap to support Charity Care payments to hospitals. Given the state has already made a prospective Charity Care payment to our state's hospitals during this quarter an extension of the June 15 ASF tax payment is feasible.



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Our physicians and their small businesses need your support.

Respectfully submitted:

Medical Society of New Jersey	Larry Downs
New Jersey Orthopaedic Society	AJ Sabath
New Jersey State Society of Anesthesiologists	AJ Sabath
New Jersey Psychiatric Society	AJ Sabath
The Medical Transportation Association of New Jersey	AJ Sabath
Radiological Society of New Jersey	Paul Anzano
New Jersey American College of Emergency Physicians	Claudine Leone
New Jersey Society of Plastic Surgeons	Claudine Leone
New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians	Claudine Leone
New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmologists	Joe Simonetta
New Jersey Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers	Joe Simonetta
New Jersey Neurosurgical Society	Tony Pizzutillo
New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons	Laurie Clark
New Jersey Society of Pathologists	Laurie Clark
New Jersey Section of American College of OB/GYNs	Laurie Clark
New Jersey Society of Interventional Pain Physicians	Laurie Clark
NJ Patient Care and Access Coalition	Bill Caruso
Mednax	Bill Caruso

cc: The Honorable Stephen Sweeney
The Honorable Craig Coughlin
The Honorable Thomas Kean, Jr
The Honorable Jon Bramnick
The Honorable Louis Greenwald
The Honorable Paul Sarlo
The Honorable Eliana Pintor Marin