

Dear

I am a **identifier (occupation, community role, family role)** and resident of **town and state of residence**. I am writing to urge you to move rapidly and aggressively to ensure that every person in the **U.S. / state name** who is eligible to vote is able to do so without risking their health. As a medical professional I am seeing first-hand the devastating health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a health professional, it will take many months – likely beyond election day, 2020 – before life is fully back to normal in the U.S. There will be no COVID-19 vaccine prior to election day. While we do not yet know how the COVID-19 virus will respond to seasonal weather changes, it is possible that there will be a resurgence of infections in the fall, placing people at even greater risk. This means that millions of people at highest risk (e.g. older people and those with a wide variety of pre-existing medical conditions) will still need to maintain vigorous physical distancing routines at the time of the election.

Many polling places are small and crowded, or require people to wait in long and crowded lines, making physical distancing almost impossible.

High risk individuals have options when it comes to obtaining groceries and medications, so that they do not need to risk their health. People must have similar options when it comes to voting. We need a vote-by-mail option to protect our most vulnerable patients.

No American should ever be forced to choose between their health and their right to vote.

I implore you to ensure that no American is forced to make that choice. Act now to ensure that every state is required to implement a vote-by-mail option before the 2020 presidential election, and is provided funding to do so in a careful and fair manner. This is the only way to protect voters and poll workers from COVID-19. It is the only way to ensure a free, fair, secure, safe, and healthy election.

Sincerely,