



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
327 STATE CAPITOL  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706  
217-782-2728

Ngozi Ezike, M.D.  
Illinois Department of Public Health  
525-535 West Jefferson Street  
Springfield, IL 62761

Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike,

First, we would like to extend our gratitude for the work being done on a daily basis to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic by all of the Illinois Department of Public Health employees under your leadership.

We, the undersigned state elected officials, are writing to obtain specific information and explanations as to the amount of Personal Protective Equipment that has been distributed to nursing homes and the process in which it was distributed.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, nursing home workers have been on the front lines caring for some of our state's most vulnerable people. These hardworking individuals are true heroes who deserve a living wage, specialty care incentives, the best working conditions possible, and right now, necessary and adequate PPE to provide adequate and safe care to nursing home residents.

Members of the Illinois Senate have had conversations with nursing home owners who have expressed concerns about the lack of PPE supplies readily available — leaving some owners to vigorously attempt to purchase PPE on their own for workers in their facilities.

Meanwhile, employees of 64 nursing homes across the state sent strike notices to management, saying facilities do not have enough PPE, safety protocols, and adequate hazard pay.

Last week, WBEZ — a Chicago-based public radio station — reported 625 Illinois nursing home patients and staff have died from COVID-19. Nursing home deaths make up more than a third of the state's coronavirus deaths. We can all agree additional PPE in these facilities would have saved lives.



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We know the federal government has not done its part and has not kept their commitments in providing PPE. We also know the Pritzker Administration is taking extraordinary efforts to acquire PPE.

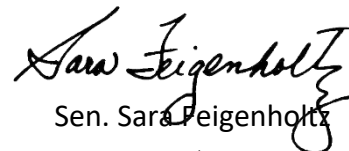
With that said, we would like to inquire about the process and distribution levels of PPE to the 64 nursing homes that received strike notices. Can you please advise how much PPE has been requested to these nursing homes, how nursing homes are chosen to receive PPE, and how much PPE these nursing homes have received since the start of this outbreak? It is imperative we get more supplies to these facilities as soon as possible in order to save lives.

Again, we do applaud the governor and all public health officials throughout Illinois for their tremendous efforts in our fight against COVID-19. We look forward to working together to help reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus, and in the process of doing that, ensure the safety and health of our nursing home residents and workers.

Sincerely,

  
Sen. Jacqueline Y. Collins

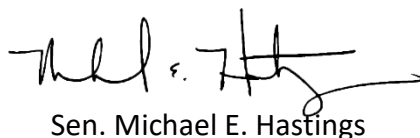
  
Sen. Bill Cunningham

  
Sen. Sara Feigenholtz

  
Sen. Laura Fine

  
Sen. President Don Harmon

  
Sen. Napoleon Harris III


  
Sen. Michael E. Hastings

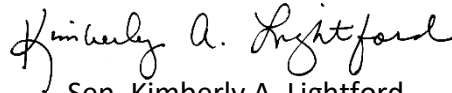
  
Sen. Mattie Hunter

  
Sen. Emil Jones III



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Sen. Steven Landek

  
Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford

  
Sen. Andy Manar

  
Sen. Kris Y. Martinez

  
Sen. Robert Martwick

  
Sen. Julie A. Morrison

  
Sen. Antonio Munoz

  
Sen. Laura Murphy

  
Sen. Robert Peters

  
Sen. Heather Steans

  
Sen. Patricia Van Pelt

  
Sen. Ram Villivalam

cc: Chicago Department of Public Health, Cook County Department of Public Health, Lake County Health Department, Sangamon County Department of Public Health