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March 23, 2020

Dear Governor Parson:

On behalf of the physicians and surgeons practicing in Missouri, the Missouri State Medical Association requests the enactment of a “shelter-in-place” requirement by executive order.

We appreciate the previous actions you have taken regarding this crisis, and understand the interwoven policy issues at play during this critical time. However, we now believe that a statewide “shelter-in-place” order is the only way to curb the exponential spread of COVID-19 in Missouri.

If things progress as is, COVID-19 patients will deplete the state’s available hospital beds, ventilators, and precious personal protection equipment. Any additional time without a “shelter-in-place” requirement wastes crucial healthcare resources, including manpower.

As physicians, we understand our role as the first line of defense against this virus. We accept the likelihood that a number of physicians will contract COVID-19 while treating the citizens of Missouri. Despite that known fact, we are prepared to carry out our responsibilities for as long as needed.

We ask for your assistance as we begin this difficult journey.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. DiRenna, DO". The signature is written in a cursive style.

James A. DiRenna, DO, FAAFP
President