

October 5, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

As Lieutenant Governors, we are concerned with your Administration's abrupt decision to seize control of the distribution of life-saving monoclonal antibody treatments for COVID-19. The restrictions of the supply of this lifesaving treatment are unwarranted and unexplained.

As the second-in-command for our respective states, we have all witnessed how monoclonal antibody treatments have reduced the burden on hospitals and ultimately saved the lives of countless COVID-19 patients, especially those in high-risk groups. The federal rationing of mAb treatment stands to hurt the most vulnerable. Though vaccines prevent most people from experiencing severe illness due to COVID-19, not everyone can get vaccinated. COVID-19 is still a danger to immunocompromised patients, even those who are fully vaccinated. Furthermore, thousands of breakthrough cases have occurred in vaccinated people, and all Americans, regardless of vaccination status, deserve access to clinically proven treatment.

According to clinical trials, monoclonal antibody treatments result in 70-85% lower risk of hospitalization and death for vulnerable COVID-19 patients. As we continue to help the citizens of our states access testing, vaccines, and monoclonal antibody treatments, we fear that your Administration's rationing of COVID-19 treatments will disrupt the progress we have made. Allowing states and healthcare providers to distribute monoclonal antibody treatments to meet the needs of their own communities is essential to our shared goal of saving lives from COVID-19.

Your Administration has expressed an interest in redistributing monoclonal antibody treatments "equitably," but under the concept of "equity," states with the greatest needs should receive adequate supply to meet their needs. COVID-19 infections peak in different regions at different times of year. For the federal government to restrict care for patients in states that are currently experiencing higher case rates is anything but equitable.

This unjustified, targeted attack from your Administration has forced us to make difficult decisions that no leader should have to make. Denying treatment to patients in certain states under the

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. October 5, 2021 Page 2 or 2

guise of "equitable distribution" does nothing but cause confusion, uncertainty, and human 13, 2021.

suffering. For these reasons, we request you reverse the supply cuts, allow healthcare providers to order directly from wholesalers again, and revert to the HHS policy in place prior to September Sincerely, Florida Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez Alabama Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth Montana Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras Alaska Lieutenant Governor Kevin Meyer North Carolina Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson Ohio Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted Arkansas Lieutenant Governor Tim Griffin Idaho Lieutenant Governor Janice McGeachin Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell Indiana Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch North Dakota Lieutenant Governor Brent Sanford

Iowa Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg

West Virginia Lieutenant Governor Craig Blair

Tennessee Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally

Maryland Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford