



Dear Physician:

As I've spoken with many of you over the last few days, and watched the continuous news coverage on our area, I've struggled to find the right words to say. Thank you simply doesn't seem to be enough.

Throughout our 197-year history we have seen our physicians quite literally run into the fire. Drs. George Crile and Frank Bunts, two of our earliest presidents, served in frontline hospitals in Europe in World War I. They were also present the day of the historic Cleveland Clinic fire—where 123 people lost their lives. Thousands of our physicians answered the call again in the 1940s to serve on the frontlines of World War II. And in 1944, our physicians were first to respond to the tragic East Ohio Gas Company explosion when homes and businesses were engulfed by a tidal wave of fire in more than 1 sq. mi. of Cleveland's east side.

Our physicians were critical parts of previous pandemics, orchestrating significant immunization campaigns against polio in the 1950s and 60s, and rubella in the 1970s. And, in March 2020 as COVID-19 first showed up in Cleveland, YOU answered the call. Even without proper PPE or protection, our physicians once again ran towards the fire. And you have continued to show up again and again, as the pandemic has continued over the past year and a half, with no signs of slowing down.

We are honored every day to represent you. And we want you to know, **we've got your back**. As COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc, we will be there for you. We will continue to educate the public on the importance of vaccination. We will continue to fight any and all efforts in Columbus to push anti-vaccination legislation. We will continue to fight for physician wellness programs, increased PPE, testing, and provider reimbursements as long as the public health emergency lasts. While you take care of us and the rest of our community, we promise to do all we can to help take care of you.

We know that many of you are facing another holiday season of exhaustion and grief, and time without your loved ones. You are the heroes of this generation. You are running into the fire. Your legacy will speak volumes to the physicians of tomorrow. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for all that you do, and for the privilege to represent you. We promise to do all we can to help, because no matter how much harder this gets-- **we've got your back**.

Sincerely,
Jen, Tara, Val and Colleen

For more information about the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio, visit www.amcno.org.