Dear [Governor/Director]:

On behalf of [state component society] and our member podiatrists, I commend you for demonstrating strong, consistent leadership during the COVID-19 global health crisis. As our nation relies on our respective governors for the management of COVID-19 vaccine distribution, I write to express our members willingness to assist in the response to the COVID-19 epidemic, including administering the COVID-19 vaccination.

Podiatrists, also known as podiatric physicians and surgeons or doctors of podiatric medicine (DPM), have seen the devastation of this disease up close with their own patients and staff, and like all Americans, podiatric physicians are eager for a quick and orderly vaccine distribution process. To help with such a process, ***our association urges our state to include doctors of podiatric medicine in the pool of professionals who can prescribe and administer the COVID-19 vaccine.***

Podiatric physicians have many opportunities to interact with their patients as we are on staff in a variety of health-care settings, such as hospitals, nursing homes, wound care centers, and outpatient surgical centers, among others. Our position is consistent with the Biden Administration’s “National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness” (National Strategy) and its recommendation to foster a surge in the health care workforce to support the vaccination effort, specifically the National Strategy states:

A diverse, community-based health care workforce is essential to an effective vaccination program. The United States will address workforce needs by taking steps to allow qualified professionals to administer vaccines and encourage states to leverage their flexibility fully to surge their workforce, including by expanding scope of practice laws and waiving licensing requirements as appropriate.[[1]](#footnote-1)

We also urge you heed the National Strategy’s recommendation to “[c]reate as many venues as needed for people to be vaccinated” and include settings that people trust, such as physicians’ offices.[[2]](#footnote-2) Podiatric physicians and surgeons undergo education and training similar to their allopathic and osteopathic physician colleagues and possess more than enough experience to independently prescribe and administer the vaccine. Not only do podiatric physicians and surgeons have the training, but podiatrists often treat patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes. These patients frequently see their podiatrists more often and more consistently than their primary care providers, and because of that ongoing relationship, have a high level of trust for their podiatric physicians.

Facing a shortage of medical personnel, hospitals and other health-care facilities called upon podiatric physicians and podiatric residents to provide care to patients diagnosed with COVID-19, and podiatric physicians are ready to serve again. In fact, podiatrists are already administering vaccinations in the states that have their relaxed scope of practice laws to authorize podiatric physicians to administer the COVID-19 vaccination. The citizens of our state will benefit when more qualified health care providers, like podiatric physicians, are authorized to administer the COVID-19 vaccination, and I urge you to act today.

I again thank you for your strong leadership during this global health crisis. Our association is available to be of assistance, and please contact [president or executive director name and email].

Sincerely,

[President’s name], DPM

President

1. The White House, “National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness” (January 21, 2021), p.11, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf> (Last Accessed January 25, 2021). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The White House, “National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness” (January 21, 2021), p.9, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf> (Last Accessed January 25, 2021). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)