

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION:

The Honorable Joseph Pennacchio,

The New Jersey Doctor-Patient Alliance is an organization that represents 350 independent specialist physicians in New Jersey.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a lot of clinical uncertainty as much of the scientific evidence which forms the basis of standards of care is almost nonexistent. However, the efficacy of Hydroxychloroquine as a suppressant of the disease is based on established scientific knowledge in virology, and early clinical data have suggested that its efficacy as a disease suppressant early in the course of infection far exceeds its performance as a treatment for severely ill patients.

As a fellow clinician, we know you have the ability to assimilate the knowledge and data produced by this virus in “real time” and we have come to the same conclusion as you have. Hydroxychloroquine, while having inherent risks, is the best weapon we have, to prevent the disease from progressing to its most severe form in the most vulnerable populations who are COVID-19 positive.

In the consideration of the above, we wholeheartedly support and endorse your stance that the state regulations placing restrictions on prescribing Hydroxychloroquine in the community setting should be immediately rescinded.

We look forward to supporting you in this endeavor and are grateful for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



Stavros Christoudias MD FACS
Board Chair
New Jersey Doctor-Patient Alliance