

Assessment 4: Lobbying for Change

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Lobbying for Change

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Dr. Brooke Cunningham

Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Health

625 North Robert Street

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Dr. Brooke Cunningham,

I am writing to bring attention to a critical healthcare economic issue affecting the health and safety of healthcare workers and patients at United Hospital Minnesota. The issue is the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE), which has put many frontline workers at risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19. As the commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Health, I know that you are deeply committed to improving the health and safety of our community, and I believe that addressing this issue is crucial to achieving that goal.

As you are well aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the community and healthcare system. The shortage of PPE has further exacerbated the situation, putting healthcare workers at risk of infection, reducing the quality of care, and potentially leading to increased transmission rates (Halcomb et al., 2020). This shortage of PPE has far-reaching consequences for the community and organizations that depend on United Hospital Minnesota. Healthcare workers unable to access the necessary PPE face increased risks of illness, potentially leading to long-term health complications or even death. Additionally, a lack of PPE can reduce the quality of care, leading to negative patient outcomes and decreased

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confidence in our healthcare system (Chang et al., 2020). Additionally, the PPE shortage can have a significant economic impact on healthcare institutions and providers, leading to increased costs and decreased revenue (Kaye et al., 2021).

As a healthcare worker, I have seen firsthand the impact of the shortage of PPE on the safety and well-being of frontline workers and patients. This has led me to take a proactive approach to resource planning and risk analysis, ensuring that the organization has adequate supplies of PPE and developing contingency plans for potential shortages (Ramakrishnan et al., 2020). Proposed actions to address the shortage of PPE include increasing the production and distribution of PPE, ensuring proper use and disposal, and developing alternative solutions (Singh et al., 2020). It addresses the PPE shortage of PPE to ensure the safety and well-being of healthcare workers and patients. As an elected official, your support for these measures is critical to ensure that the healthcare system can provide quality care and protect the health and safety of our community.

As you know, the COVID-19 has put medical professional and patients at risk; ethical principles, such as the duty to provide a safe working environment and protect patients, should guide the allocation of scarce resources such as PPE during a pandemic (Sperling, 2020). It is essential to ensure that the limited supply of PPE is allocated in a fair and just manner, taking into account the needs of frontline workers and the risks to patients. Ethical principles, such as respect for persons, distributive justice, and the duty to protect the vulnerable, should guide the allocation of scarce resources (Shaibu et al., 2021). This means ensuring that all healthcare workers have access to the PPE they need to provide safe care and that patients are protected from the risk of infection.

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If you address this issue, you can see positive outcomes in the community. Access to adequate PPE can reduce the risk of infection and increase the safety of healthcare workers and patients, improving the quality of care provided at United Hospital Minnesota. Moreover, it can help reduce transmission rates and provide the necessary protection for those at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19. Addressing the shortage of PPE will also benefit all stakeholders, such as physicians, nurses, and patients. Health providers will be protected and able to focus on their work, hospitals will save money and provide safer care, and patients will receive higher-quality care (Wood et al., 2021).

On the other hand, if this issue is not addressed, you can expect negative outcomes. Healthcare workers and patients may face an increased risk of infection and illness, leading to potential long-term health complications and a burden on our healthcare system. Additionally, a lack of PPE can contribute to decreased confidence in our healthcare system and the ability of United Hospital Minnesota to provide quality care.

I urge you to take action on this critical issue by providing additional resources and support to ensure that United Hospital Minnesota has the necessary PPE to protect healthcare workers and patients. Your support for these measures will significantly impact the health and safety of our community and help ensure that our healthcare system can continue to provide high-quality care.

I appreciate your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Caroline

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