



April 14, 2020

We write to you today in our capacity as top fiscal officers in each of our respective states. As you know, there is a nationwide [shortage](#) of ventilators in rotation to serve the estimated number of patients that are anticipated to need them as a result of COVID-19 complications. For that reason, we are asking manufacturers of ventilators to do their part to assist overburdened healthcare systems caring for critically ill patients, by agreeing to release all service manuals, service keys, and schematics during this crisis, enabling hospitals to make repairs to ventilators and maximize their supply and ability to serve more COVID-19 patients. Our healthcare workers are putting their own health and safety on the line every day to care for these patients and are desperate for ready solutions and expanded access to functioning ventilators, which we urge manufacturers to support, especially in this time of grave circumstances.

We are in a public health emergency where every second is vital. In some instances, service contracts have forced hospitals to wait more than a week for a manufacturer's technician to service equipment. Hospitals are forced to take their own safety measures, disallowing external technicians to enter their facilities, at the risk of more people coming into direct contact with the coronavirus. We fear that this issue will hurt rural or needy hospitals even harder, as often they may be using secondhand equipment without a maintenance contract or access to a service technician with the manufacturer's repair information. When this equipment breaks down, even needing only minor repairs, it becomes unusable.

As you know, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group recently delivered a [petition](#) with 43,000 signatures to ventilator manufacturers, asking them to release repair information.

We recognize and appreciate the meaningful progress that some manufacturers have made voluntarily. We're also encouraged by [actions](#) non-manufacturers have taken to use their own expertise to refurbish older ventilators for use. But we need all manufacturers to step up and release this repair information in a comprehensive fashion to include service manuals, service keys, and schematics in this crisis. By making these available, in-house biomedical technicians at hospitals can make the necessary repairs to maximize service to COVID-19 patients.

In these unprecedented circumstances, every American has been asked to make a sacrifice by not leaving their homes, shuttering businesses, and limiting travel to essential needs only. We are asking manufacturers to take these circumstances into consideration and release all repair information needed for hospitals to put these life-saving ventilators into their supply.



We welcome an open dialogue on this topic, should you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Joe Torsella  
Pennsylvania State Treasurer

Colleen Davis  
Delaware State Treasurer

Michael Frerichs  
Illinois State Treasurer

Seth Magaziner  
Rhode Island Treasurer General

Dave Young  
Colorado State Treasurer