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To Minnesota's Federal, State and Local Legislators:

On behalf of the Medical Alley Association and its more than 600 members, I wanted to thank you for working around the clock to address the COVID-19 outbreak.

As you continue working to address preventing the spread of COVID-19, the directive of "sheltering in place" may come up for your consideration. Some states have put these plans in place, others are currently contemplating implementing them. While this discussion has yet to happen in Minnesota, the Medical Alley community wants the leaders of our state to be aware of the importance of adding exemptions in for our companies, so that they may continue to lead the fight against the virus.

Minnesota is the global epicenter of health innovation and care, and as such, we have a critical part to play in addressing this pandemic. The impact of this vital industry extends far beyond our state: The innovations and supplies coming out of Medical Alley are critical to stemming the tide of COVID-19 and ensuring that patients with other conditions get the care they need during this time as well. We are all in this together.

If any shelter in place directives come forward, we are asking that the following exemption language be included:

For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services at any "Healthcare Operations" including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, companies and institutions involved in the research and development, manufacture, distribution, warehousing, and supplying of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology therapies, consumer health products, and medical devices, diagnostics, equipment, services and any other healthcare related supplies or services . This shall be broadly construed to include all other activities, supplies, and services required to maintain supply chain operations without disruption. "Healthcare Operations" does not include fitness and exercise gyms and similar facilities.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or concerns about this key exemption.

Sincerely,

Shaye Mandle