



Americans for Prosperity's Guidance for State-Based Reforms to Help Address COVID-19

Americans for Prosperity urges swift and targeted action to address the legitimate public safety and economic challenges associated with the spread of the novel coronavirus. Policymakers in state capitols across the country should act to ensure that high-risk populations have access to critical health care services.

As state governments continue to consider ways to address the novel coronavirus, Americans for Prosperity is identifying a number of steps that state policymakers can take today that could help expand access to critical health care services for those who need it.

- 1: Lift regulations to allow health care providers to work in the states with greatest need, regardless of the state in which they are licensed. This will free medical professionals to fully provide the services they are trained to provide.
- 2: Expand access to digital tools and telehealth systems that can help reduce the burden on the health system, improve access to health care, and increase social distancing.
- 3: Eliminate government restrictions on the number of hospital beds, CT scanners, or other health services. Certificate of need mandates put unnecessary caps on these essential health care needs.
- 4: Make information about the virus and policymakers' decisions on combatting it accessible to the public. The open flow of information will allow stakeholders to enact appropriate measures and citizens to make informed decisions to protect public health.

State and local government is empowered to enact laws necessary to protect public health and safety. But even in a crisis like the one we face, elected officials must continue to respect civil liberties. As policymakers offer ways to protect public safety, Americans for Prosperity urges them to ensure that any limitations on civil liberties are temporary, equally applied, and as limited as necessary to address the emergency. AFP also encourages governments to invite the participation of community leaders to identify voluntary bottom up solutions to address the crisis.