My name is XXX. I am a family physician, who treats patients of all ages and life stages — babies, pregnant women, seniors – male and female. I am concerned about COVID-19 and so are my patients. They look to me for answers, and I need help.

Doctors like me are figuring out a lot of important details, but we need more answers. I am concerned that the demand for testing outweighs the supply.

I am concerned that the demand for testing outweighs the supply. There is also confusion about testing availability, standard protocols, and duration of analysis to help primary care physicians and their patients make decisions. For example, we hear from a range of patients who represent possible COVID-19 cases.

Vital protective supplies are also scarce as is information about how to secure more. Patients are worried. They are calling and visiting my office. That means my staff and I are using a lot of personal protective equipment, but it is unclear if we will continue to have adequate supplies. I need answers on when I can expect the supply chain to reflect the influx of supplemental federal funding that was just enacted?

There is a lack of alignment between federal programs and the commercial insurers, which is creating confusion and causing physicians and their offices to waste valuable time navigating the conflicting policies.

- All payers, public and private, should eliminate cost-sharing for testing
- Eliminate all prior authorization for COVID-19 testing and care
- Pay for telehealth at the same amount as in-person visits

This public health crisis illustrates the need for Congress to support the primary care infrastructure to care for vulnerable. Community Health Centers and Teaching Health Centers across the country deliver care to millions of patients a year, yet funding for these vital programs has not yet been reauthorized. Programs that are training essential primary care workforce and providing care in communities are on the verge of closing without assurances of stable funding.

Thank you for listening to my concerns. I also urge you to look to the American Academy of Family Physicians as a resource. The AAFP has the capacity to communicate with its 134,000 members quickly and efficiently. The organization could be an effective vehicle for keeping front line physician members, like me, informed and ensuring patients are safe.