

**BOBBY L. RUSH**

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

March 18, 2020

The Honorable JB Pritzker  
Governor  
State of Illinois  
100 West Randolph Street Suite 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601-3112

Dear Governor Pritzker:

Thank you for the leadership you have shown over the last days and weeks as our state faces this unprecedented public health pandemic. According to Axios, the United States has fewer than three beds for every 1,000 people, and hospital “closures have laid a groundwork that could make this problem worse, reducing the total capacity in a given area while shifting more patients into the hospitals that remain.”<sup>1</sup>

Given this urgent health situation, I am writing to you today to request that you use any and all existing authorities you have to reopen the MetroSouth Medical Center as soon as possible. Our healthcare providers are the frontline of defense, and we must ensure they have every resource available at their disposal to fight the coronavirus.

As such, we cannot afford to allow MetroSouth to remain empty or underutilized. I remain committed to working with you to provide any federal assistance needed get MetroSouth back up and running, at least for the duration of this epidemic.

Once again, I urge you to do whatever is needed to make this happen as soon as possible. I look forward to working with you on this and other solutions to ensure the health and safety of all Illinoisans. If I may be of assistance during this time of crisis, please do not hesitate to contact me or my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bobby L. Rush".

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

<sup>1</sup> Herman, Bob. “The New Coronavirus Will Threaten the Supply of U.S. Hospital Beds.” Axios, March 18, 2020. <https://www.axios.com/coronavirus-hospital-bed-crunch-capacity-18e22c81-006b-4654-a74c-40ff86488431.html>.