



# State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
*Governor*

December 8, 2020

New Mexico Health Care Association

To New Mexico's distinguished medical professionals and caregivers,

Like so many New Mexicans and Americans, I have an elderly parent in a long-term care facility. In normal circumstances, I would be, as I have done for many years, helping provide care for my mother. I can't do that now, of course. And I can't see her. But I am reminded every day that our loved ones are receiving care and services and emotional support – and my personal gratitude for the professionals making those sacrifices runs deep.

With the recent nationwide surge in COVID 19 cases, long-term care facilities and caregivers are under unprecedented strain, including here in New Mexico. At the heart of these services are individuals making sacrifices, making the extra effort – the women and men who have gathered here virtually. I wish we could gather in person and I could express my gratitude for the compassionate care you provide to New Mexico seniors. The tireless, countless hours that you commit to these individuals, the sacrifices you make with regard to time away from your own families, the selfless efforts that you undertake – I am humbled by your service, as I know so many New Mexicans are.

Perhaps of equal importance to the medical expertise and attention you provide, I hear stories daily of the emotional care that you administer to your residents, some of whom who are sick, scared and lonely, often separated from their closest family members for extended periods of time. We cannot begin to imagine the number of lives you have impacted by giving comfort to these individuals in their time of need, and the thousands of family members who find peace knowing that you fulfill this most important role for their loved one when they cannot.

Thank you for your continued commitment to help us weather this storm and all you contribute to the well-being of our state. On behalf of a grateful New Mexico, we honor and value you, today and always.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Lujan Grisham".

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor