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# Staying the Course to Deliver High Quality and Compassionate Care

 As President of the Dade County Medical Association (DCMA), I am in awe of the compassion and commitment being illustrated by my colleagues and the dedicated medical professionals throughout our community as we continue to fight COVID-19.

Several weeks ago, I had an opportunity to speak with one of my colleagues about the continued presence of the pandemic in our community and the ability of clinicians to maintain their strength and wits in the face of this extreme pressure. He spoke in detail of the daily struggle of driving into the

hospital knowing what the day had in store, then returning home to his family at night sharing the day's burden and worry that he may yet introduce this virus into his home. Few would have guessed some six months ago that we would have to keep up this sustained onslaught to protect our neighbors and fellow citizens.

Many of you have the same experience of gearing up day-after-day for months to fight a battle that too often ends with a solemn conversation with a grieving family member. The toll this pandemic will have on the mental health and resiliency of our profession cannot be overstated. There has been legislation filed in Washington that will attempt to address the mental health implications of COVID-19 on our clinicians. Additionally, our DCMA Foundation will be moving forward with the creation of a wellness program to take care of members that need additional support and counsel as we move on together. This program will be modeled after similar programs in operation in Florida and continues the effort the DCMA has made over the past two years to provide mental health assistance to professionals such as the North Miami Police Department and the North Miami Beach Police Department.

I am confident that, once we finally turn the page on COVID-19, history will remember so many of you that stood up and repeatedly answered the call to serve your patients. Our community will be forever in your debt and should collectively step forward to take care of you as well. There is renewed appreciation for your daily sacrifice.

I am confident that over the coming weeks and months all of you will continue to serve our profession proudly and continue to answer your calling. May you and your families continue to stay safe.

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