Subject Line: Allied Health Needs Your Support

Dear Premier Pallister and Minister Friesen,

I’m an Allied Health Professional on the front line of health care, and I’m putting my personal safety and that of my family on the line to make sure Manitobans continue to get the health care services they need during the COVID-19 pandemic. In return, I expect my provincial government to have my back.

I am writing today to ask you and your government to step up and follow the lead of other jurisdictions by providing **paid leave** to health care workers who are forced to take time off to self-isolate or to provide child care when they don’t have any other options. Earned benefits like income protection, vacation and overtime banks were not intended for a crisis like this, and it’s unfair for us to be forced to use them up. That’s only going to cause more problems down the road.

In addition, for those of us who get COVID-19, I’m asking you to ensure we receive **presumptive workers compensation coverage**. We’re at risk because of the work we do – we can’t stay at home – so it’s reasonable to assume we contracted it at work. Let’s not get bogged down in bureaucracy at a time like this – let those of us on the front line of health care know you have our backs!

Paid leave and presumptive workers compensation coverage are cost-effective, fair and reasonable measures. They would go a long way toward reassuring Allied Health Professionals and all front-line health care workers during this pandemic. Don’t let Manitoba fall further behind, please put these measures in place today.

Sincerely,

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