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## Statement from LeadingAge Florida President & CEO Steve Bahmer on Routine Immunity Critical to Continued Quality Care

TALLAHASSEE— The COVID-19 public health emergency is unprecedented on many fronts. The emergency threatens the life and health of persons around the world and has severely disrupted commerce and everyday activities. The situation is very fluid and federal and state guidance is changing almost on a daily basis with instructions on how to provide appropriate care for those in need.

LeadingAge Florida is asking for a routine level of legal immunity necessary to give health care providers the confidence to implement all possible measures under these extraordinary conditions.

Significant legal challenges follow such catastrophic disasters and work to impede the provision of public and private health care services during the disaster response. A level of immunity from liability is needed to encourage individuals and organizations to provide creative and innovative services to save lives without the fear of damaging their organization's ability to survive after the emergency is over.

A request for limited immunity from liability for actions taken to mitigate COVID-19 is routine and many laws already recognize the effectiveness of providing such protections. Many states, including New York, Michigan, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana and Louisiana have enacted policies by now to provide immunity from liability for health care activities and professionals to diminish the effects and the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

[A copy of LeadingAge Florida's letter to Governor DeSantis is attached.](#)

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*Established in 1963 as a Florida not-for-profit corporation, LeadingAge Florida is committed to assisting its members in achieving excellence as providers, businesses and employers. The Association provides up-to-date regulatory information, a wide variety of educational opportunities, representation before the Legislature and government agencies, group purchasing services, and opportunities for networking with peers.*