



**ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI  
ERIC SCHMITT**

March 26, 2020

An open letter to Missouri's professional licensing boards and commissions:

The current COVID-19 public health crisis is requiring extraordinary efforts from our state's physicians, nurses, and other healthcare workers. It is also seriously impacting tens of thousands of Missouri workers who have had their employment hours reduced or have stopped working entirely. Governor Parson has recognized that state professional licensing regulations should not impose additional, unnecessary burdens on Missouri workers during these challenging times. I write today to join this important effort.

As Missouri's chief law enforcement official and under § 27.060, RSMo, I have authority to decline to prosecute administrative actions against licensed professionals who fail to comply with state regulatory requirements due to difficulties created by the COVID-19 public health crisis. I have directed attorneys in my office to evaluate on a case-by-case basis all referrals for enforcement action based on failures to meet regulatory deadlines or payment of licensure fees in light of the immense challenges facing professional workers at this time. I ask you to join me in conducting a careful review of regulations and fees that may impose unnecessary burdens on Missourians who are struggling to pursue their livelihoods in these unique times.

Many regulations and requirements have been lifted at this time, and I have made it a priority for my office to identify additional Missouri regulations that might impose undue burdens on hard-working Missourians. Today, I call on all Missouri citizens, business, and agencies to contact my office with ideas on reducing regulatory red tape during the COVID-19 public health crisis.

My office has identified nearly 100 such regulations, which are enclosed with this letter. I urge Missouri's professional licensure boards and commissions to evaluate these regulations and promptly consider whether suspending or postponing their requirements during the public health crisis is warranted.

First, many of these regulations make it challenging for our overburdened healthcare workers to meet certain requirements during the public health crisis, such as completing licensure renewal paperwork and continuing education coursework. Instead of worrying about these often time-consuming requirements, Missouri's healthcare professionals should be focusing on patient care.

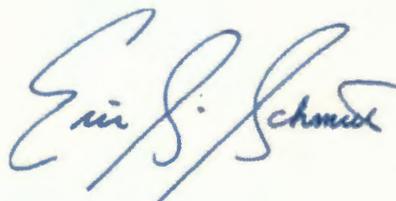
Second, some regulations prevent inactive healthcare professionals, many of whom have decades of experience, from returning to work as rapidly as possible. Our state's hospitals and intensive care facilities need them to be able to return to work immediately—now more than ever.

Third, the public health crisis's effects on the economy makes it difficult for Missouri workers in other industries to comply with stringent requirements. For example, some regulations require professionals to complete in-person continuing education requirements that simply cannot be met in light of the Governor's Executive Orders limiting the size of public gatherings. Some regulations have looming application deadlines that cause hardships to meet. And many regulations contain expensive fee structures that are likely unaffordable for many professionals while they are working reduced hours.

It is imperative that our regulations allow Missouri's professionals to work—and to work safely—without being burdened by the sweeping effects the public health crisis is having on the economy. Regulations should not over-burden Missouri citizens during a public health crisis.

My office stands ready to assist all Missouri professional licensure boards and commissions during their review of burdensome regulations. And I call on all Missourians who encounter regulatory hurdles to pursuing their livelihoods during this public health crisis to contact my Office at [CutRedTape@ago.mo.gov](mailto:CutRedTape@ago.mo.gov), or visit our website at [www.ago.mo.gov](http://www.ago.mo.gov), to alert us of your challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric S. Schmitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Schmitt" clearly legible.

ERIC S. SCHMITT  
MISSOURI ATTORNEY GENERAL