

DRAFT

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

The Honorable Governor Ron DeSantis
Office of the Governor of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: Covid-19 Therapeutics

Via: electronic mail to governorron.desantis@eog.myflorida.com and U.S. mail, first class, prepaid

Dear Governor DeSantis,

On behalf of the citizens of Polk County, the Commission would like to thank you for your innovative and forward-thinking program to set up monoclonal antibody testing centers. We observed with interest that Governor Abbott of Texas appears to be following your lead. Thank you for leading in this area of critical importance that is literally saving lives.

We are hearing from many of our citizens that larger hospital chains and some pharmacies are refusing to prescribe safe and effective therapeutics like hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin. As you know, these well-established pharmaceuticals are low-risk, inexpensive, and otherwise widely available. HCL is used in mass population prophylaxis, especially in areas of the world where malaria is widespread. Ivermectin has been called a "wonder drug" since the 1970's. One day we hope to discover the reason why corporate medical providers are discouraging patients from even trying these largely innocuous medications. When a citizen is facing a potentially life-threatening case of Covid-19, he or she should receive the "right to try" potentially life-saving therapeutics.

Instead, in many cases patients are literally being left to die while inexpensive options are right at hand. It is intensely frustrating, to say the least.

We understand the difficult political climate related to these issues. We are writing to encourage you to take action to protect citizens' right to try, and to let you know that Polk County stands ready to assist you in that effort in any way that we can. Just let us know.

Best regards,

Rick Wilson, Chairman

Martha Santiago, Vice-Chair

Bill Braswell, Commissioner

George Lindsey, III, Commissioner

Neil Combee, Commissioner