May 1, 2020

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
US House of Representatives, Arizona District 2
309 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC  20515

Re:  Health and Human Services Approval for Several Walgreens Locations as Active COVID-19 Virus Testing Sites in Pima County

Dear Congresswoman Kirkpatrick:

As you know, in Arizona there has been an announcement to significantly increase COVID-19 viral testing known as the Arizona COVID-19 Testing Blitz. In fact, the State of Arizona has encouraged a major expansion of testing, which is necessary to evaluate public health, implications of lessening physical distancing and other standards designed to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus.

We understand that Walgreens has been allowed to participate in this expanded testing, but only at one location in Pima County on the far eastside of the metropolitan area. It is our understanding that that the Department of Health and Human Services must approve any additional Walgreens sites.

This letter is to ask you to expedite the Department of Health and Human Services’ approval of alternative testing sites for Walgreens in Pima County, with particular emphasis on approving those sites more central to our metropolitan population. Central locations will improve accessibility of viral testing to our entire community, in particular to the more disadvantaged area of our community where lack of transportation services make it difficult to travel long distances to receive viral testing services.

Sincerely,

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer, Health and Community Services
Dr. Bob England, MD, Director, Health Department