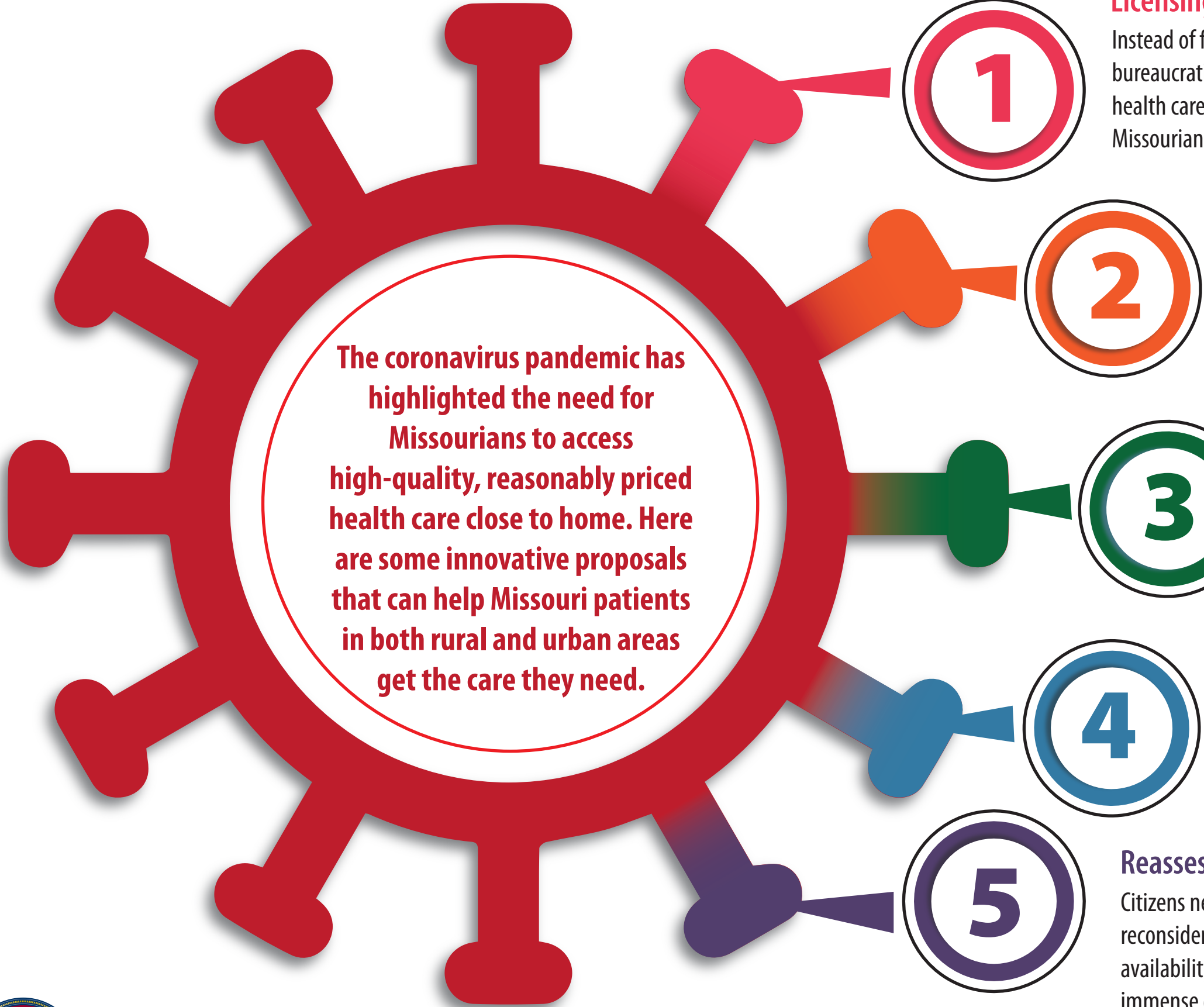


INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE IN MISSOURI DURING A PANDEMIC—AND BEYOND



The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the need for Missourians to access high-quality, reasonably priced health care close to home. Here are some innovative proposals that can help Missouri patients in both rural and urban areas get the care they need.

1

Licensing Reciprocity for Health Care Professionals

Instead of forcing qualified medical professionals from other states to jump through bureaucratic hoops to provide care here, Missouri should immediately accept the credentials of health care workers licensed and in good standing in their home states. It is essential that Missourians have access to every competent professional in the country that is willing to help.

2

Maximize Access to Telemedicine

One important safety valve for hospitals is the use of telemedicine – the ability for a patient to see a doctor remotely from her own home. Licensing reciprocity, paired with other regulatory changes to maximize access to telemedicine, will safely offer more care to more people while reducing the burden on our state's health care infrastructure.

3

Repeal Certificate of Need

Currently health care providers must seek government approval in order to offer certain medical services in the state, including overnight beds. These barriers should be removed, and hospitals should be allowed to build the facilities and offer the services they believe their communities need.

4

Reform Scope of Practice

Health care professionals should be allowed to practice to the full extent of their training. In the context of a crisis, if a nurse, medical student or pharmacist can capably provide a service that has traditionally been delivered by another health care profession, the law should allow it.

5

Reassess Insurance Regulations

Citizens need the flexibility to customize insurance plans to their needs, and legislators should reconsider existing state regulations and mandates that have driven up costs and reduced the availability of both traditional and short-term insurance plans. Especially during a time of immense economic turmoil, ensuring Missourians have a wide array of reasonably priced insurance options should be a high policy priority.



www.showmeinstitute.org