



Senate of Pennsylvania

April 1, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of the Commonwealth of PA
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

We commend you, Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine and your Administration for your management during the COVID-19 public health emergency. These are clearly unprecedented times that require bi-partisan cooperation to ensure the safety and well-being of all Pennsylvanians, and as such, over the last several weeks we have been supportive of your efforts.

While containing the spread of COVID-19 is certainly important during this time, we view it as a short-term plan. As each day passes and more counties are placed under stay at home orders, it becomes crucial that we also look to the future and plan for the day when Pennsylvania can return to a state of normalcy.

We have heard concerns and frustrations from thousands of workers and employers across our Commonwealth. It has become immensely apparent that your waiver process needs greater consistency and to be streamlined. It is also vital that the waiver process has input from labor, business and manufacturing leaders and is transparent to everyone.

A small business with two employees and a handful of customers in their store at a time is less risky to public health than big box stores with a hundred employees and numerous customers shopping for lawn furniture. We need common sense with compassion and sound guidelines for employers to follow.

We encourage you to work with business leaders and health experts to develop appropriate guidelines to help establish more stability for our workforce. With over 29,000 waiver requests for businesses to stay open, workers who want to work and businesses that want to be open should have the opportunity, as long as they are following safety protocols. Unemployment compensation checks and business loans are by no means a long-term solution to this crisis.

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It is clear that there could be more dark days ahead, however while preparing for the worst, it is crucial that we focus on measures to stabilize our economy. We no longer can ignore the economic impact of this virus. We have stood with you to protect Pennsylvanians from COVID-19, and we ask that you stand with us to expedite opening as many businesses as possible at this time. Just as your Administration planned for ways to combat this virus, it is imperative that we also plan for business recovery.

We look forward to continuing to work together during this crisis, and to gaining a better understanding of your plan to restore Pennsylvania's economy.

Sincerely,



Joe Scarnati
President Pro Tempore



Jake Corman
Majority Leader



Senator David Argall



Senator Dave Arnold



Senator Ryan Aument



Senator Lisa Baker



Senator Camera Bartolotta




Senator Michele Brooks



Senator Pat Browne



Senator John DiSanto



Senator John Gordner



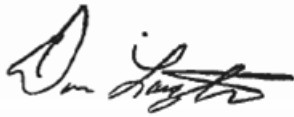
Senator Scott Hutchinson



Senator Tom Killion



Senator Wayne Langerholc



Senator Dan Laughlin



Senator Scott Martin



Senator Doug Mastriano



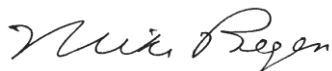
Senator Bob Mensch



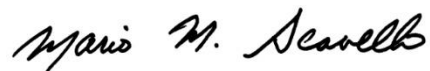
Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill



Senator Joe Pittman



Senator Mike Regan



Senator Mario Scavello



Senator Pat Stefano



Senator Robert Tomlinson

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Senator Elder Vogel



Senator Kim Ward



Senator John Yudichak



Senator Judy Ward



Senator Gene Yaw