



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

May 13, 2020

The Honorable Mike Shirkey
Senate Majority Leader
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

The Honorable Lee Chatfield
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Senate Majority Leader Shirkey and Speaker Chatfield:

Thank you for your leadership during these challenging, unprecedented times. While we may not agree on everything, I believe we all have shared priorities as we fight the spread of COVID-19. On behalf of the Michiganders we serve and the brave people working on the front lines of this crisis, let's work together to:

- Offer hazard pay for local first responders.
- Increase wages for direct care workers and nursing home employees.
- Expand child care resources for working families and childcare providers.
- Fund the Futures for Frontliners program to provide opportunities for postsecondary education for those working on the front lines in health care facilities, grocery stores, child care centers, and more.
- Support MIOSHA's efforts to keep employees safe as they return to work.

As you know, our procurement team has been working around the clock with partners in business, the nonprofit sector, and the federal government to secure PPE for our health care workers, nursing homes, and first responders. We now have enough PPE to last our hospitals several weeks. We have worked to ensure more students have access to the technology they need to learn successfully from a distance. We have ramped up testing in communities across the state, and health care workers and first responders can get tested for free, even if they are not experiencing symptoms. These have been important steps forward, but there's more we must do to ensure support for the brave men and women working around the clock to protect our families.



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

I appreciate your help in working with our federal partners in Congress and The White House to bring additional resources back to Michigan, while also supporting the needed flexibility in this fiscal relief as we work across all levels to combat the virus. This is critical to fund our kids' education and police, fire and our local communities. As you know, I am working closely with leaders in health care, business, labor, and education to monitor our state's progress and phase in sectors of our economy. My office will continue to communicate with yours about our progress.

Again, we may not agree on everything, but as we face this crisis, we share a number of priorities. Let's send a strong message that we can work together. Let's do right by our frontline heroes.

I look forward to partnering with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gretchen Whitmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan

cc: Senate Democratic Leader Jim Ananich, House Democratic Leader Christine Greig