



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF DELAWARE
LEGISLATIVE HALL
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

April 17, 2020

Governor John Carney
Tatnall Building
150 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Governor Carney,

As our state continues to deal with the difficulties imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we want to urge you to utilize the talents of the General Assembly.

As illustrated in the form and function of our committee system, the 62 members of the state legislature represent a vast resource of experience and proficiency in every area of public policy.

As chief executive, you have broad power to issue modifications to your State of Emergency declaration. While discretion over the nature and scope of these orders rests solely with you, we suggest that you include selected state legislators as part of the process.

Before amending your emergency declaration, or issuing new guidance to citizens, consider seeking the input of four legislators (one from each legislative caucus) sitting on a House or Senate committee in the appropriate subject area. As selected by you and your staff, these lawmakers could provide valuable insights and differing perspectives, leading to better outcomes for the people we all serve.

Bringing legislators into the development of new orders and guidance would improve communication between the executive and legislative branches during this challenging time. It would also provide Delawareans with a voice in the creation of new policies during the State of Emergency – the lack of which has been a frustration repeatedly expressed by many of our constituents.

The situation in which we find ourselves is uncharted territory. We hope you will take these suggestions to heart and will implement them prior to the next modification. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



State Rep. Danny Short
Delaware House Minority Leader



State Rep. Tim Dukes
Delaware House Minority Whip