

Connie Bernardy
State Representative

Fridley, New Brighton
and Spring Lake Park



Minnesota House of Representatives

April 8, 2020

Office of Congressman Jim Hagedorn
325 Cannon HOB
Washington DC, 20515

Office of Congresswoman Angie Craig
1523 Longworth HOB
Washington DC, 20515

Office of Congressman Dean Phillips
1305 Longworth HOB
Washington DC, 20515

Office of Congresswoman Betty McCollum
2256 Rayburn HOB
Washington DC, 20515

Office of Congresswoman Ilhan Omar
1517 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Office of Congressman Tom Emmer
315 Cannon HOB
Washington DC, 20515

Office of Congressman Collin Peterson
2204 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Office of Congressman Pete Stauber
126 Cannon HOB
Washington DC, 20515

Office of Senator Tina Smith
702 Hart Senate Building
Washington DC, 20510

Office of Senator Amy Klobuchar
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Minnesota Congressional Delegation:

We write as state legislators concerned about constituents who are facing a significant challenge relating to the COVID-19 pandemic – high school and college students whose CARES Act rebate is not accessible.

Students across the country who are claimed as dependents on their parent's taxes will not be receiving a rebate check. Their parents are not eligible to receive any CARES Act funding for their children, as they're over the age of 16. Many of these students and their parents live in the districts that we serve in the Minnesota House of Representatives. They have called, emailed, sent letters, and testified in hearings to express their anxiety and frustration, and are asking us to help them.

While the Minnesota Legislature enacted emergency legislation to help ease some of the financial impacts on students and working families resulting from the pandemic, it is clear that help from our colleagues at the federal level is needed to make Minnesota's students whole. Minnesota's colleges and universities are doing the best they can to refund payments without financially hemorrhaging to the point of closure. Students are facing tuition payments, rent payments, student loan payments, and graduation uncertainty. Albeit many of those payments are delayed with or without penalty, many students are out of work and will be unable to recover. We believe the intent of the CARES Act was to aide as many Americans as possible in their financial struggles. These students should be no exception.

To that end, we respectfully request that each of you:

- 1) Support Congresswoman Craig and Senator Smith in their All Dependent Children Count legislation. This legislation ensures that Minnesota's families are able to get some much-needed relief for their older children and dependents.
- 2) Continue to pursue any relief legislation that assists Minnesotan students in their path to graduation, as well as relief legislation for the unprecedented financial challenges facing students and working families.
- 3) Support legislation that financially supports our state public colleges and universities.

Sen. Smith, Sen. Klobuchar, Rep. Craig, Rep. Phillips, Rep. Peterson, Rep. McCollum, and Rep. Omar – thank you for sponsoring and co-sponsoring this important legislation.

In these extraordinary times, we thank you for your commitment to the people of Minnesota and your work to ease the burdens many of our constituents are facing. We are here to partner with you and provide any information you may need to assist these students and families.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie Bernardy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Connie Bernardy
Chair, Higher Education Policy and Finance Division

Enclosure: Members Signed in Support

Speaker Melissa Hortman
Majority Leader Ryan Winkler
Representative Patty Acomb
Representative Kristin Bahner
Representative Jamie Becker-Finn
Representative Robert Bierman
Representative Jeff Brand
Representative Hunter Cantrell
Representative Andrew Carlson
Representative Lyndon Carlson, Sr.
Representative Shelly Christensen
Representative Anne Claflin
Representative Jim Davnie
Representative Raymond Dehn
Representative Rob Ecklund
Representative Heather Edelson
Representative Steve Elkins
Representative Peter Fischer
Representative Mary Franson
Representative Mike Freiberg
Representative Rick Hansen
Representative Kaohly Her
Representative Frank Hornstein
Representative Michael Howard
Representative John Huot
Representative Sydney Jordan
Representative Ginny Klevorn
Representative Erin Koegel
Representative Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn
Representative Mary Kunesh-Podein
Representative Sandy Layman
Representative Fue Lee
Representative John Lesch
Representative Tina Liebling

Representative Ben Lien
Representative Leon Lillie
Representative Todd Lippert
Representative Dave Lislegard
Representative Jamie Long
Representative Carlos Mariani
Representative Sandra Masin
Representative Kelly Moller
Representative Rena Moran
Representative Kelly Morrison
Representative Mary Murphy
Representative Michael V. Nelson
Representative Mohamud Noor
Representative Liz Olson
Representative John Persell
Representative Dave Pinto
Representative Jeanne Poppe
Representative Laurie Pryor
Representative Ruth Richardson
Representative Linda Runbeck
Representative Steve Sandell
Representative Julie Sandstede
Representative Duane Sauke
Representative Jennifer Schultz
Representative Zack Stephenson
Representative Mike Sundin
Representative Brad Tabke
Representative Samantha Vang
Representative Jean Wagenius
Representative Ami Wazlawik
Representative Dan Wolgamott
Representative Jay Xiong
Representative Tou Xiong
Representative Cheryl Youakim