



April 24, 2020

Governor Tim Walz  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

via electronic delivery

Dear Governor Walz:

Thank you for your leadership in the past weeks as Minnesota has led the nation in controlling the spread of COVID-19. There has been a great deal of cooperation between the Legislature and your office in order to support the health and safety of all Minnesotans. To that end, we are writing to you in hopes that you reconsider Executive Order 20-09, which limited the ability of providers across Minnesota to offer care deemed "non-essential" by the order.

Executive Order 20-09 explains that the "conservation of critical resources such as ventilators and personal protective equipment is essential to address COVID-19." Minnesotans agreed and supported that decision in order to help protect those around us, and to protect our important health care workers who would be needed to fight COVID-19. Since then, providers and the state have had weeks to procure, stabilize access to, and improve management of their supplies. Also, as we get further along in this emergency, the consequences of limiting care have become more apparent.

Minnesotans contact us each day wondering why they cannot get a mastectomy to treat their breast cancer or have needed surgery to address severe, chronic pain. Some of these critical treatments are deemed non-essential by your order. But to those who need the care, they are as every bit essential as the care needed by COVID-19 patients.

Meanwhile, hospitals across the state are being forced to lay-off or cut the pay of the very nurses and doctors this order was meant to protect. Tens of thousands of Minnesotans working in health care have filed for unemployment, and that number continues to rise. These workers point out that the furloughs will worsen the health of Minnesotans as we will fail to catch or treat preventable conditions.

Furthermore, the hospitals themselves are being faced with the difficult tasks of budgeting while unable to provide any care. The Minnesota Hospital Association reports that individual hospitals and health systems are incurring losses of \$31 million per day. The Mayo Clinic estimates it will lose \$3 billion this year due to COVID-19 and Fairview Health Services reports estimated losses of \$30 million per week. Extending this order for much longer could lead to more hospital closures and irreparable damage to the ability of people in Greater Minnesota to access care.

Minnesotans are proving that we can begin to create our "new normal." You have announced in the past weeks the opening of certain outdoor recreation, like golf and fishing, and more recently, you have



allowed certain businesses to return to work. We can give hospitals and our medical community that same flexibility. We can trust our medical community to make the right decisions to balance our response to COVID-19 with Minnesota's other medical needs.

We request that you reconsider Executive Order 20-09 and allow hospitals and other healthcare providers to have flexibility in how they treat patients. Allow them to consider how and where they can safely treat COVID-19 patients and those seeking non-COVID care while maintaining capacity and without compromising PPE.

Thank you,



Representative Barb Haley



Majority Leader Paul Gazelka



Minority Leader Kurt Daudt



Deputy Minority Leader Anne Neu



Representative Tony Albright



Representative Paul Anderson



Representative Jeff Backer



Representative Dave Baker



Representative Peggy Bennett



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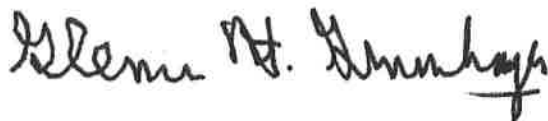
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Representative Glenn Gruenhagen



Representative Bob Gunther



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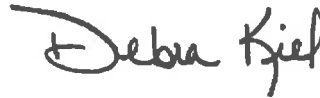
Representative Josh Heintzeman




Representative Brian Johnson



Representative Tony Jurgens



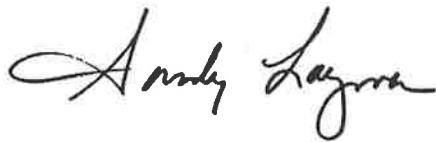
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Representative Ron Kresha



Representative Sandy Layman



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Representative Dale Lueck



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Senator Warren Limmer



Senator Carla J. Nelson



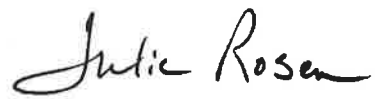
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