



Ohio House Democratic Caucus

Governor Mike DeWine
77 S. High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

March 12, 2020

Dear Governor DeWine,

With the announced first instance of community spread of COVID-19, more and more Ohio businesses have implemented telecommuting and work from home policies. Now, your administration is taking difficult, but necessary steps to slow the coronavirus outbreak and save lives by closing K-12 schools and banning large, public events.

As you've said, this outbreak is almost certain to get worse before it begins to get better. More Ohioans will get sick. Some will die. It's likely that large numbers of workers will have to stay home to take care of themselves or sick family members.

We know these disruptions will have a tremendous financial impact on low-income, hourly workers who simply cannot afford to take extended periods of time off of work.

Earlier this week, our caucus signed a letter urging you to take the necessary steps to ensure the health and economic security of Ohio workers and their families.

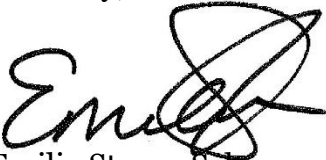
It can be done.

In fact, on Wednesday, Gov. Pritzker of Illinois acted to allow those out of work due to COVID-19 to access unemployment compensation, creating a temporary, emergency paid sick leave program to keep these workers at home—not back on the job to worsen a COVID-19 outbreak.

Again we are asking you, as Governor, to act to promote public health and protect the economic security of working people and families by creating a temporary, emergency paid sick leave program here in Ohio. You have the power to use general revenue funding; increase and appropriate funds in the Controlling Board's Emergency Purposes Fund; tap into the Budget Stabilization Fund, which is at near-capacity; or utilize reserve TANF funds that have historically been used for emergencies and unforeseen circumstances.

We ask you to consider this request for the safety of all Ohioans, and we stand with you ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emilia Strong Sykes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Emilia Strong Sykes
House Minority Leader

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin Boggs". The signature is cursive and somewhat light.

Kristin Boggs
Assistant Minority Leader

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula Hicks-Hudson". The signature is cursive and includes a large flourish at the end.

Paula Hicks-Hudson
Minority Whip

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Brown". The signature is cursive and relatively simple.

Richard Brown
Assistant Minority Whip