



**State Representatives  
Lisa Sobecki & Allison Russo**

March 12, 2020

Dear Director Hall,

As COVID-19 continues to spread across the globe and here in Ohio, we are writing to inform you of a crucial issue that impacts Ohio's Jobs and Family Services agency locations. If not properly addressed, this issue could have potentially devastating consequences.

During Governor Mike DeWine's press conference earlier today, March 12<sup>th</sup>, he relayed your request that individuals not visit Jobs and Family Services locations unless absolutely critical. As a former caseworker for JFS, I know that Ohioans receiving government assistance will soon visit their local JFS in order to turn over copies of essential documentation necessary for processing their benefits redetermination. This could result in hundreds of individuals every day, across multiple counties, interacting with each other in a confined space, and potentially contributing to the spread of COVID-19.

In order to mediate this potential issue, we are requesting that you institute automatic redetermination for all individuals and families receiving foodstamps, cash and medical benefits, to be effective immediately and through the conclusion of the COVID-19 outbreak. This is a rare, but not unused practice that the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services has instituted before. We believe this a prudent course of action that will help contain the spread of the virus.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter. We eagerly look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Lisa A. Sobecki in black ink.

Lisa A. Sobecki  
Ohio Representative, 45<sup>th</sup> District

Handwritten signature of C. Allison Russo in black ink.

C. Allison Russo  
Ohio Representative, 24<sup>th</sup> District