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Senate of Pennsylvania

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May 28, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

Thank you for your continued efforts to lead the Commonwealth through the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the last 11 weeks, Pennsylvanians have heeded the calls from medical and public health experts in your administration to stay home, stop the spread of COVID-19 and, thereby, save countless lives. Through our collective action, the curve is flattening, and hospitals have not been overrun here as they were in New York City and other COVID-19 hotspots around the world.

We are now heading into June, and by the end of this week 17 counties in Pennsylvania will have been moved from the yellow phase of pandemic mitigation to green, in which businesses and individuals will continue to take certain precautions, including reducing building capacity, encouraging teleworking and preventing large entertainment gatherings. In addition, 40 counties remain in yellow phase, in which many businesses are allowed to open with certain health restrictions, and the remaining 10 counties in red phase are expected to move to yellow by June 5.

As we continue to practice social distancing and ensure that frontline workers have the personal protective equipment (PPE) they need, we believe that certain steps can now be taken to open an additional sector of the economy in a way that is consistent with the goal of mitigation. We ask that Pennsylvania follow the lead of our neighbors in Ohio and implement similar health

and safety precautions to allow for businesses in the personal service industry to reopen across the Commonwealth in the yellow phase.

Developed by a personal services workgroup at the request of Ohio's Governor, the attached fact sheet includes a list of requirements and best practices for businesses to implement, including, but not limited to:

- Maintaining six feet of social distancing (except between the client and employee when appropriate);
- Requiring employees to wear facial coverings (with some exceptions);
- Requiring businesses to clean high-touch items after each use; and
- Requiring employees to wear gloves and dispose of gloves in between tasks.

Those licensed in the personal service industry, such as barbers and cosmetologists, already receive hundreds of hours of training in sanitation, sterilization and hygiene. With these added precautions, we believe that barbers, hair and nail salons, day spas and tanning facilities located in counties in the yellow or green phase should be allowed to reopen.

Moreover, we are beginning to receive reports of some businesses and individuals in this sector that are operating now in counties that are in the yellow and red phases in violation of your order. We are concerned with the health risk associated with such activities as they may or may not be undertaken in accordance with the protocols outlined above. In our view, it would be better to allow businesses in this sector to operate in the yellow phase so that their practices could be regulated by state and local authorities, thereby giving health officials a better chance to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Our collective sacrifices to protect all Pennsylvanians in this pandemic, while needed, have led to economic hardship. As the coronavirus pandemic continues to show signs of slowing in the state, allowing businesses in the personal service industry to reopen in the yellow phase pursuant to the enclosed protocols would provide our communities with a chance to get back to work in a manner consistent with the primary goal of mitigating the spread of the virus.

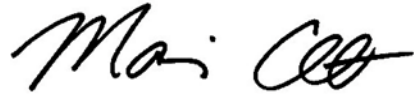
For these reasons, we respectfully request that you issue an executive order to allow all hair salons, day spas, nail salons, barbershops and tanning facilities that are located in a county in the yellow or green phase to reopen in accordance with necessary public health protocols.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,



Senator Steve Santarsiero, 10th District



Senator Maria Collett, 12th District



Rep. Wendy Ullman, District 143



Rep. Perry Warren, District 31



Rep. John Galloway, District 140



Rep. Tina Davis, District 141