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March 2, 2021

Hon. Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Teacher Vaccination

Dear Governor Wolf:

Thank you for your continued leadership in protecting public health during this unprecedented pandemic.

I am writing about the need to reopen our schools as soon as possible and in a manner consistent with CDC guidelines and the state's overall goal of halting the spread of Covid-19 and protecting public health. With the recent approval of the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine – and an apparent agreement to allow Merck to help with its production – we are hopefully at a point in which we will soon have many more doses of all three, approved vaccines available to expand the categories of people getting shots. In light of that fact, I request that the Department of Health expand category 1A to include teachers and school staff, and that the state embark on an aggressive campaign to get them vaccinated quickly so that we can safely reopen schools in the coming weeks.

The benefits of in person instruction for students, both academically and from a mental health perspective, have been well documented. With increased access to vaccine doses and more readily available PPE, we are now at a point at which we can get students back into schools in a way that protects both them and teachers and staff.

Thank you for considering this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Santarsiero', written over a horizontal line.

Steven J. Santarsiero

CC: Acting Secretary Beam