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Representatives Lisa Sobecki and Tavia Galonski

Governor Mike DeWine
Vern Riffe Center,
77 S. High St, FL 30
Columbus, OH 43215

Lt. Governor Jon Husted
Vern Riffe Center,
77 S. High St, FL 30
Columbus, OH 43215

April 30, 2020

Dear Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted,

Thank you for your leadership during this pandemic caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. Today we write to you regarding unemployment coverage for individuals in light of your proposal to methodically re-open Ohio's economy.

The current version of your proposal will open varying types of Ohio businesses over the next few weeks but does not include opening daycare beyond the current limited levels for essential workers. Furthermore, your wavering stance on requiring face masks for employees and customers has left many across our state uneasy. Constituents from across our districts have expressed concerns about their fear of returning to work during this pandemic.

We are already aware of your assurances that all businesses must abide by guidelines developed by your offices with the Ohio Department of Health, but our concern is the health and financial stability of employees who have determined it is not safe for them to return to work due to their unique circumstances. We feel that until there is a substantial amount of PPE and COVID-19 testing Ohioans should continue to act prudently, and should not have to be forced to return to work while jeopardizing their health and the health of their families.

Therefore, we respectfully implore you to issue a directive addressing the following points to ODJFS Director Hall that we feel is in the best interest of Ohio employees.

- Ohioans should continue to be eligible for unemployment if they do not return to work because they feel unsafe due to health concerns.
- Ohioans should continue to be eligible for unemployment if they do not return to work because they provide care for a family member who had COVID-19.
- Ohioans should continue to be eligible for unemployment if they do not return to work because they do not have access to childcare.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Lisa A. Sobecki
Ohio Representative, 45th District



Tavia Galonski
Ohio Representative, 35th District

Cc: Director Kim Hall, ODJFS