



December 8, 2020

Presidential Transition Office  
1401 Constitution Avenue  
Suite 38038  
Washington, D.C. 20270

Dear President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris,

Thank you for your leadership and ongoing efforts to ensure an organized transition and prioritized COVID-19 response. I appreciate your transparency and commitment to moving us forward and want to reiterate Colorado's commitment to mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I first want to applaud you and your team for your strong commitment to expanding and improving workplace safety for all workers by creating a COVID-19 task force and for including a former OSHA administrator who champions tougher standards. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed significant vulnerabilities and flaws to our current Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards, and failing to recognize and protect our workforce will only continue to harm public health and our economy.

Stronger workplace safety enforcement from OSHA will help improve the health and safety of our workers. It is important to empower workers to protect themselves and the public, but most importantly, to be reasonably safe in their workplaces.

I write to you today to support strengthening of OSHA's enforcement authority and inspection capabilities and expanding safety and health requirements. I strongly support the following recommendations:

- Create emergency standards and procedures to protect workers from COVID-19 infection and exposure. This would include providing an exposure control plan, more personal protective equipment, enhanced cleaning standards, and a thorough review of penalty authority if there is failure to meet these standards.
- Increased communication between the federal OSHA and our Colorado OSHA office regarding complaints, inspections, guidance, and other concerns.

- Increase the number of OSHA inspectors to enforce existing OSHA standards and regulations to protect workers from unsafe workplace hazard, such as exposure to COVID-19.
- Restructure the OSHA advisory committee and boards to meet on a regular basis.
- Establish an employer recording and reporting system of all worker infections and deaths due to COVID-19.

Our State workforce has shown tremendous resilience at great risk to their health and the health of their families and loved ones, but we simply need to do more. Since the start of the pandemic, I've urged Colorado employers to take actions to ensure that they are complying with our public health orders, and maintaining safe workplaces. In July, I signed both House Bill 1415 into law, which would prohibit an employer from retaliating, or taking adverse action against any worker who raises concerns about workplace health and safety practices or hazards related to a public health emergency and Senate Bill 205, which guarantees employees paid time off if they are experiencing COVID-related symptoms. The vast majority of Colorado's employers are responsible partners in managing the risks of this pandemic, but we would appreciate strengthened federal OSHA presence to assist in holding violators accountable and deterring careless behavior at this critical time.

I strongly agree that we must promote transparency, accountability and trust in our government, especially during times of uncertainty. It is my hope your administration works swiftly to update our current regulations and require stricter enforcement to stop transmission of COVID-19 and aid us in our efforts to protect all Colorado workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jared Polis  
Governor