



General Assembly

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

17 May 2020

Dear Governor Wolf,

Thank you for your continued efforts to lead the commonwealth through the COVID-19 pandemic. Your commitment to protecting families and the public health has undoubtedly saved many lives. The Democrats in the House and Senate have stood with you, but so have the millions of Pennsylvanians that have practiced social distancing, took the advice of medical professionals, and have helped their communities by coming together to fight back against this virus. We are certainly stronger together and our resilience will carry us through this crisis.

For weeks now, Republicans have tried to hamper your efforts by attempting to pass unconstitutional bills that would open various components of the economy – putting people at further risk – and in defiance of your Emergency orders. Both the Pennsylvania and United States Supreme Courts have upheld the orders because they understand a strong executive response is appropriate and exactly what is needed in a pandemic. The Republicans in both chambers have even sought to grant reopening authority to county officials, despite the fact that only the smallest fraction of counties maintain a health department. Democrats in the General Assembly have fought against these efforts, and we will continue to do so to protect the people of our commonwealth.

These efforts culminated last week with House and Senate Republicans working together to send House Bills 2388, 2412 and Senate Bill 327 to your desk and we respect your desire to veto the legislation.

Our collective sacrifices to protect our most vulnerable in this pandemic has led to economic uncertainties and challenges. As we know you are, we encourage you to continue to review ways in which industries might be able to safely open in a limited fashion while also maintaining the health and safety of their employees and customers.

Real estate services is one of those areas. Unlike House Bill 2412, we believe that an approach that prohibits open houses, requires limited contacts and implements other practices to prevent coronavirus spread could allow for real estate services to resume, even in red phase areas of the commonwealth.

Thank you for your consideration of this alternative approach and your continued leadership to protect the health and safety of Pennsylvanians during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Costa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Senate Democratic Leader Jay Costa, Jr.
D-Allegheny

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Dermody". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "F".

House Democratic Leader Frank Dermody
D-Allegheny/Westmoreland

On behalf of their respective caucuses