



Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon  
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254  
Salem, OR 97301-4047

March 24, 2020

Governor Brown,

We are in uncharted territory, and the House Republican Caucus stands ready to work with our colleagues in the Oregon Legislature to respond quickly and responsibly to threats to public health and our economy. It is important that any action taken by the state balance the immediate health risks with the long-term well-being of our families through support for employees and main street businesses.

We continue to strongly support stay at home recommendations, social distancing, handwashing and less frequent person-to-person contact. The Stay Home Stay Safe initiative is appropriate and needed.

Executive Order 20-12 is the most restrictive action taken to date and has significant impacts on businesses and consumers. While we broadly support this action, we also believe it comes with an obligation on behalf of the Governor's office to ensure this order is bolstered with additional access to information in order to be carried out in a clear and transparent manner.

We request the following:

- Provide legislators and the public with a clear data-based standard for changes to Executive Order 20-12 moving forward. With this, we urge an approach that continues to protect public health while limiting harm to the economy, by communicating with the public that these are temporary measures that will be re-evaluated within a clear framework as circumstances change.
- Provide additional information on health care system capacity, with regular updates on COVID-19 hospitalizations including patient acuity data and recovery rates to ensure executive and legislative actions are responsive to maintaining systemwide resilience and readiness.
- Provide a one-stop Coronavirus Information Office for individuals and businesses seeking assistance and information to ensure our response to COVID-19 interrupts a public health crisis and prevents an economic collapse.

It is imperative that people understand the need for this action in order to achieve a high level of compliance to slow the spread of COVID-19. We urge you to remain in constant contact with the Legislature and the public with information related to the effectiveness of the order and to continue to consult lawmakers if and when it needs to be modified or expanded.

The response to COVID-19 is and needs to remain a bipartisan effort. Our commitment to working together for the benefit and well-being of all Oregonians has never been stronger.

Sincerely,

House Republican Leader Christine Dragan