



December 10, 2021

The Honorable Tim Walz, Governor, State of Minnesota

The Honorable Melissa Hortman, Speaker, House of Representatives

The Honorable Kurt Daudt, Minority Leader, Minnesota House

The Honorable Paul Gazelka, Majority Leader, Minnesota Senate

The Honorable Susan Kent, Minority Leader, Minnesota Senate

Dear Governor and Legislative Leaders:

It is time for action to enact into law a relief bill that will do what is needed during this apex of COVID-19 cases.

People are hurting, financially and as a result, emotionally under the restrictions of Executive Order 20-99. Restrictions on restaurants and fitness centers may be justified in light of the risks, but the economic impact is also a serious risk. We are sure you agree with this.

We are asking the owners of these kinds of businesses, and their employees, to take on a disproportionate burden of that economic impact. The result is great uncertainty and for some businesses, ultimate ruin. Several measures aimed at relief of people at serious risk have ended or will run out at the end of the year.

What are mayors doing with the tools and resources they have? Actually, we mayors are doing everything we can think of, from encouraging maximum use of take-out orders to organizing local relief funds. And we may do more. But only the state, with its greater resources, can give people hope that the future will be better than the present.

So, we are calling on you to enact a relief law -- now.

We need the governor to call legislators into session and legislative leaders to put aside their partisan differences and unite around what is best for all Minnesotans. Would that produce a bill taxpayers will have to pay eventually? Of course. But it is necessary and urgent.

This is what Minnesotans do. We know the people in our communities. We talk with them all the time. And this action is what people expect their elected leaders to do. We assume you will act, but we are watching with unprecedented interest, as are all Minnesotans.

Thank you.

Cc: Commissioner Steve Grove
Patrick Tanis

MN Mayors Together was launched in 2017 to build relationships across the state and catalyze hopeful conversations based on common ground, not divided politics.

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