

April 10, 2020

Governor Gretchen Whitmer

Governor,

We write you with severe concerns regarding the latest Executive Orders extended early last week further restricting business and personal activities. We have been supportive and promoted many of your Executive Orders that initially were designed to stop the spread of Covid-19. As spouses, parents, employers, and County Commissioners it is easy to understand the importance of doing all we can to stop the spread. Asking people to social distance, wash their hands, wear masks in public, and preventing large public gatherings was an excellent reaction to stem the spread. Those measures have largely worked.

Implementing the State's initial disaster declaration was an important early move as well. The federal disaster request was slow and reeked of politically motivated distraction. When the federal officials arrived and began assisting, Michigan quickly moved toward being better off. We hope that is a lesson learned. Partnering for the good of the collective citizens should never be diluted by political fights. Now is the time to lead fearlessly and trust the citizens. Constitutional rights and liberty are a precious thing and those should not be infringed upon any longer for most Michigan citizens.

The latest round of Executive Orders appears to be written from a standpoint that you believe Michigan citizens are not capable of knowing how or why to protect themselves. Business owners and citizens are now impacted beyond reasonable and prudent measures. A business owner certainly considers themselves essential and we agree. They are essential to the economy that supports and allows our great State of Michigan to thrive. Your actions are creating a mess that will result in mass bankruptcies and mounting unemployment. We implore you to lead fearlessly and with thought that the people of Michigan will act in each other's best interest.

Metro Detroit is the hotspot of Covid-19 in Michigan. Governor, you can and should regionalize your Executive Orders to isolate the mass of the problem. As the issue begins to fade in Detroit, then begin to remove their restriction as well. The rest of Michigan has not experienced the level of extreme as has Detroit and therefore should not endure the same level of public restraint. As the Governor, you cannot continue ruin to the State's economy and people's lives.

Many citizens have now gone a month without a paycheck. You and most government employees have not experienced a loss of income. Please place yourself in their shoes for a moment. Additionally, the unemployment system in Michigan is not functioning well. Many people are expressing frustration in attempting to or being rejected in applying for benefits. Those benefits are all they may have to feed their children. Please act decisively to repair that system. We are fully convinced that most citizens would rather work than accept government assistance. We should always encourage that outcome, not government assistance.

We implore you to work with the business community to identify parameters that must be implemented in order to allow owners and employees, who are the backbone of our State's economy, back to work providing for themselves and their families. Business owners most typically will follow the rules established to protect their employees, the public, and their business. Give smart people credit that they can and will do what is right to operate safely. Much the same can be said for churches and places of worship.

Executive Orders restricting retail business owners, such as those who own greenhouses, gardening, outdoor supply, and many others, are baffling at best. Michigan continues to advertise and allow lotto ticket sales to remain in place at local retail outlets yet the greenhouse owner, who often works all year to only see revenue in during the months of April, May, and June, are prohibited from selling their products. This is just one example of restrictions having unintended consequences. There are several more examples.

Lawn & Landscape businesses often work alone or in small teams to provide services to citizens. During their work, they can maintain a proper distance from one another. How is restricting those business owners and employees from operating lowering the threat of virus spread. Keeping grass and weeds under control will help prevent our mosquito borne threats of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) from resurfacing as we head into the warm season. Additionally, lawn mowing business often are contracted to maintain Landbank Authority vacant homes and properties to keep varmints from becoming a nuisance.

The limiting of store hours is counter-productive to minimizing social contacts by placing the entire population of shoppers into a compressed number of hours. Let stores who can handle and desire to return to 24-hour options return to those hours. That option creates more opportunities for the higher risk citizens to shop in slower hours overnight. Again, provide parameters to business owners to reopen and assist the economy to get back on track.

Restricting power boating while allowing canoes and kayak activities leaves us wondering the methodology used to determine what and how you implemented these restrictions. This decision and others are a perfect example of undefendable actions.

Travel to a second home within the State is now prohibited but travel to another State is OK? None of these orders makes sense and are largely unenforceable. If it is bad to have people move around within the State but ok for them to go to another State that seems at odds with your goals and bad for neighboring states. Why then allow out-of-state visitors or vacation homeowners from other hot spots including New York and Chicago to enter Michigan? Michigan does not possess the legal ability to stop citizens from movement about the country or within its own borders.

Our State's hospital and healthcare system is now at risk of collapse from empty beds and low volume. The initial move to restrict non-life-threatening procedures was a good move to preserve the amount of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). As this restriction has been extended, several hospitals are now laying off nursing, specialty, and ancillary staff to stop the hemorrhage of cash rushing out the door to cover expenses while revenues are severely restricted. As PPE levels return to acceptable, those restrictions should be lifted. Require hospitals to maintain several days of PPE to prevent reliance on supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). People become resourceful when they have an opportunity to thrive.

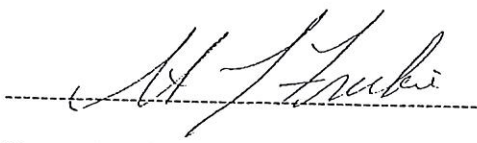
Yes, we may risk more community spread but no more than currently if parameters are implemented for business to follow. We need to provide the most vulnerable with assistance so they can remain home, quarantined from risks such as meal deliveries, remote healthcare services, and other measures that can continue or be implemented to assist our vulnerable to maintain a safety zone.

Governor Abbot of Texas is planning to re-open business in a stepped fashion. Please mimic his actions, not those of Ohio. Being a leader requires courage and a belief in those you lead. I trust the citizens to act in a manner that is mindful of others and their own safety.

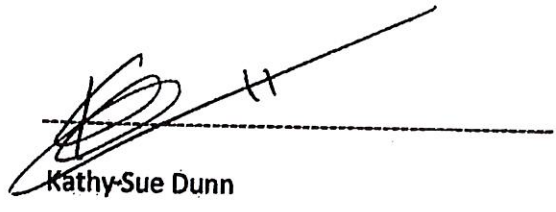
We trust our local Public Health officials to continue in their efforts to monitor and promote the necessary steps to implement a safe reopening of the State of Michigan. The Calhoun County Health Department has been phenomenal in their efforts. Working in conjunction with the State of Michigan Health & Human Services provides great resources and a monitoring of a region.

We appreciate your consideration in these urgent matters. This letter represents our personal views and not that of the body of Commissioners. Good luck and stay safe.

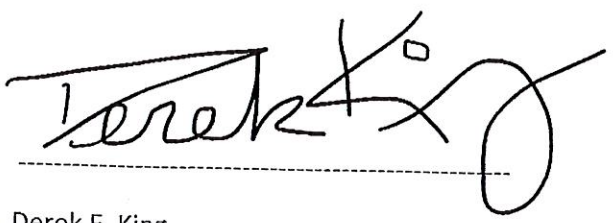
Respectfully,

A cursive handwritten signature of Steven J Frisbie, written above a horizontal dashed line.

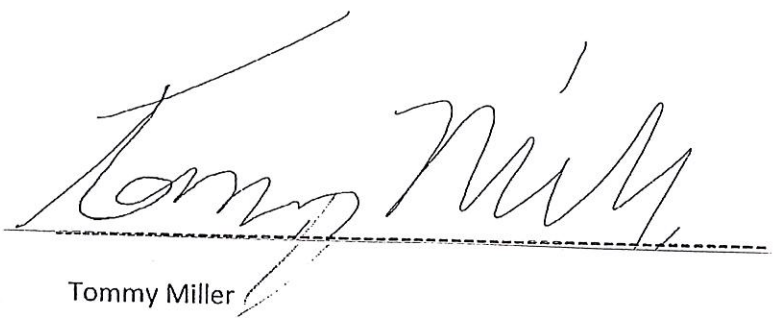
Steven J Frisbie

A stylized handwritten signature of Kathy-Sue Dunn, written above a horizontal dashed line.

Kathy-Sue Dunn

A cursive handwritten signature of Derek F. King, written above a horizontal dashed line.

Derek F. King

A cursive handwritten signature of Tommy Miller, written above a horizontal dashed line.

Tommy Miller

A cursive handwritten signature of Gary Tompkins, written above a horizontal dashed line.

Gary Tompkins