



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Walz

Office of Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan

75 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ♦ Suite 130 ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

November 23, 2020

Dear Legislative Leaders,

As cases skyrocket and hospital capacity is pushed to the brink, the COVID-19 pandemic demands immediate action to save lives. Necessary public health measures bring hardship for all Minnesotans—but this hardship falls disproportionately hard on our small businesses and workers.

Minnesota business leaders have been doing everything they can to keep businesses and workplaces safe as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. But with community spread at an all-time high, any place we gather is now more dangerous than it was a month ago. We know this is especially true in places where people gather for long periods of time and are not consistently masked. That is why we had to hit pause last week on many of the activities that bring the most joy to our lives—watching a football game with a buddy at a bar, celebrating a family birthday at a restaurant, or hitting the gym with your running partner.

This is not fair. The pandemic is not fair, and it is our job as leaders to make it more just. Small businesses across our state are in dire need of relief. Many workers are struggling to make ends meet. As we take action to protect the health of our neighbors, we must also take action to support the people who are sacrificing so much.

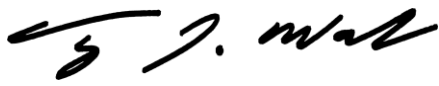
The federal government has the most power and resources at its disposal to provide the support Minnesotans need and deserve right now. That is why I wrote a letter to Congressional leaders last week calling for immediate action on COVID-19 relief. I will continue partnering with the members of our federal delegation as they push for support from Washington.

But we can't wait for the federal government. Minnesota businesses and workers can't wait. We must take every action we can at the state level to support Minnesotans. We must provide relief to small businesses that are the economic backbone of our state. We must give direct assistance to Minnesotans who are out of work. We must turn every stone.

That's why I directed my team to begin work on a comprehensive COVID-19 relief package for our small businesses and communities. We have laid out the principles around which a package should be structured. I know legislators on both sides of the aisle have engaged on this issue and been working tirelessly to find common ground, and I will continue working with you to get a deal done.

Let's come together to ensure our businesses stay afloat, our workers are supported, and our families can put food on the table. I will call a special session as soon as the legislature agrees on a package to provide this much-needed relief.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. J. Walz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "J".

Tim Walz
Governor