



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Walz

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

January 7, 2021

Dear Legislative Leaders:

As the legislative session begins this week, I recognize our shared interest in finding a pathway to work collaboratively to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and to ensure an orderly end of the peacetime emergency when it is no longer needed. To accomplish this, we will need to work together to ensure our response maintains the needed speed and flexibility to responding to the pandemic, including safely and effectively distributing the vaccine. While the recent trends in the pandemic's trajectory are encouraging thanks to Minnesotans' hard work and sacrifice in recent weeks, we are not yet out of the woods. The pandemic will continue its tragic impact all over the state until everyone has access to the vaccines.

With a light now at the end of the tunnel, I encourage you to begin the work of enacting into law the core provisions of the emergency response that have been keeping Minnesotans safe. This will be needed to facilitate the wind-down of the peacetime emergency and related emergency executive orders at a time when the pandemic presents a less significant and rapidly evolving challenge to Minnesota. Core provisions to prioritize include but are not limited to:

- Commonsense measures to ensure that businesses continue to provide safe environments to enable commerce to thrive.
- Increased protections for workers from unsafe working conditions and retaliation from raising concerns about workplace safety.
- Changes to the Unemployment Insurance program to continue to enable more job seekers to receive timely support.
- Requirements to wear face coverings in public indoor spaces and indoor businesses.
- Flexibility for school districts to enable local determinations of learning models with appropriate safety precautions.
- Continuation of the evictions moratorium with a specific timeline for its end to avoid surprises and a surge in evictions.
- Protections for Minnesotans against price gouging on essential goods and services and garnishment of COVID-19 relief payments.

In the December special session, we showed Minnesotans that we could put aside politics and provide support for small businesses and workers. I look forward to continuing this spirit of collaboration as we enter the 2021 session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. J. Walz".

Tim Walz
Governor