

**FRANCIS X. RYAN, MEMBER**  
**101ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

Harrisburg Office:  
P.O. Box 202101  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2101  
(717) 783-1815



District Office:  
1044 E. Main Street  
Palmyra, PA 17078  
(717) 838-3823

**House of Representatives**  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

Email: [fryan@pahousegop.com](mailto:fryan@pahousegop.com)  
[www.RepFrankRyan.com](http://www.RepFrankRyan.com)

April 8, 2020

Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary  
PA Department of Health  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor West  
Health and Welfare Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Levine,

I am writing in response to your concerns expressed in recent letters to the General Assembly in opposition to legislation now pending to address the impact of COVID-19.

While the administration's effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 is commendable and certainly no easy task, I am increasingly alarmed about the impact such a broad-brush approach is having on our citizens, the small businesses that employ them, and our overall economy. I am also concerned about the toll it will take on all of us in the weeks, months and years ahead.

Seldom in one's lifetime is there a need to make life or death decisions, but we find ourselves in that position today. History will judge our response. In the Marine Corps, we call this "presence of mind" and our leaders are judged by how they act or fail to act at such times.

As a former Marine commander in the civil affairs corps, it was often my duty to find measured solutions to difficult problems. I believe such an approach is necessary today and provides our best hope of reclaiming the lives we had before this pandemic hit.

The many businesses deemed by the administration to be non-essential or not life-sustaining and the hundreds of thousands of people they employed, would find it neither reckless nor irresponsible to permit more of our small businesses to reopen with proper safety and sanitary protocols. Most would be happy to do whatever it takes. Therefore, I am asking you to reconsider your opposition to legislation the General Assembly is advancing to do this.

Our legislation would establish a COVID-19 Cost and Recovery Task Force to identify pressing issues and develop a recovery plan aimed at restoring housing, transportation, education, public services and economic activity to levels equal to or better than their pre-disaster status. The legislation would also aim to restructure state debt. Pennsylvania families are also facing

mounting debt and they are counting on us to get them back to work. We must prepare to start rebuilding our economy.

As a CPA with a background in corporate restructuring, I have been a leading advocate in the General Assembly for economic reform. Over the past several years, I have warned about the need to get Pennsylvania's pension systems and overall financial house in order while the economy was good and that a recession would make it far more difficult and painful to do so. Our failure to act now will cause untenable economic realities for Pennsylvania citizens. We simply cannot delay. Please work with us to save our small businesses and put working Pennsylvanians back to work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis X. Ryan".

Francis X. Ryan, Member  
101<sup>st</sup> Legislative District