



# Alaska House Bush Caucus

Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chair, District 37  
Alaska State Legislature  
120 4<sup>th</sup> St. State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Representative Tiffany Zulkosky, District 38  
Representative Neal Foster, District 39  
Representative John Lincoln, District 40

Governor Mike Dunleavy  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811

March 25, 2020

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

Across Alaska, local governments and tribes are diligently working towards communicating the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic within their communities and issuing guidance, advisories, and mandates to keep their communities and constituencies healthy and safe. As COVID-19 has spread across the world, data has shown that communities who take swift and decisive action early have been most successful in combating the virus' spread and flattening the curve that threatens finite health care systems.

One of the best ways for communities to combat the virus' high rate of transmission is to enact broad "shelter in place" policies early in the outbreak, reducing the amount of human-to-human contact and lowering the transmission rate. We request that you take immediate action and issue a statewide "shelter in place" order, compelling Alaskans to shelter in their places of residence. Across our state, and particularly in rural parts of Alaska, health care infrastructure is limited. This makes constraining community spread essential to ensuring that when someone becomes ill, rural hospitals have enough capacity to provide life-saving care if necessary.

If you are unwilling to issue a statewide shelter in place order, we request that you empower local community leadership with tools to enforce existing tribal and municipal governments' efforts to slow the spread of this virus. In the interest of Alaskans, we request that in response to this public health crisis, the State honor municipal and tribal advisories, mandates and guidance related to COVID-19 exposure and prevention, and empower local governments with the legal backing to take care of their communities.

We are at a critical moment in our fight against COVID-19. If we look back on preventative measures taken at the early part of COVID-19's growth curve and say that we overreacted, that means that they worked. Aggressive action taken proactively has proven to be governments' best chance of flattening the curve, avoiding overwhelming their health care system, and preventing a significant loss of life.

Thanks for your consideration of this request,

Handwritten signature of Bryce Edgmon in black ink.

Representative Bryce Edgmon,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Handwritten signature of Tiffany Zulkosky in blue ink.

Representative Tiffany Zulkosky



Representative Neal Foster



Representative John Lincoln

CC

Suzanne Cunningham, Legislative Director, Office of Governor Mike Dunleavy

Adam Crum, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

Dr. Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

Tony Newman, Legislative Liaison, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services