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JIM DURKIN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 82ND DISTRICT
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April 23, 2020

The Honorable J.B. Pritzker
Governor, State of Illinois
100 W Randolph
JRTC - STE 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601-3220

Governor Pritzker,

Following our legislative leaders call on Wednesday, I want to reiterate my requests for the following:

- 1) Provide the scientific modeling and supporting documents used for the modeling projected by your Administration that would include epidemiology reports issued by the University of Illinois, University of Chicago and Northwestern University.
 - a. These orders have long-lasting effects on the people and businesses of Illinois, and it is only fair to publicly share the modeling that is being used to determine these critical decisions.
 - b. While we all know that modeling can change, the legislative branch, our residents and business owners deserve to know what the Administration is using in its decision-making process.
- 2) Allow the healthcare system to resume operations for treatment services.
 - a. **Health:** Many residents of Illinois have been forced to delay necessary care, which of course will lead to more serious issues in the future. We must prevent additional healthcare crises and protect all citizens, especially those with fragile health conditions. There is also a growing concern that life-saving cancer preventative screening services, including mammograms, MRIs, and colonoscopies, are being delayed for significant time. Hospitals, clinics and physician offices across the state should be given greater ability to make decisions on bed space and treatment options as we continue to battle Covid-19. We must allow doctors to make healthcare decisions for all patients.
 - b. **Jobs:** In many parts of the state, the medical community makes up some of the larger employers and serves as a huge component of local economy. Locally, we are hearing from hospitals and doctors who want to return to their normal operations in phases starting next month, perhaps at 25% of normal volume, and return to normal full time operations by the beginning of June.

- 3) Re-open state parks across Illinois to offer mental health relief to Illinois citizens.
 - a. Outdoor activities greatly affect mental health and have a positive impact during these very trying times, especially those who have to quarantine at home alone.
 - b. We can open our parks, monitor them for problems, post signs and information, and allow our citizens to participate in outdoor activities while maintaining the social distancing we all recognize as important to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

- 4) Allow independent retailers and small businesses that make up a portion of Main Street Illinois the ability to safely open their doors while enforcing safety measures and social distancing protocols. For example: Designate garden centers, nurseries and greenhouses as essential service providers, allowing them to open for business while implementing social distancing criteria to keep customers safe.

These considerations can be implemented in a responsible manner that maintains the integrity of the health and safety requirements currently in place, and restores the small business model that is vital to our state's economy.

I hope you take these recommendations into serious consideration as you look at extending the current Stay At Home order in Illinois.

Sincerely,



Jim Durkin
House Republican Leader
82nd District