



ILLINOIS STATE SENATE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

June 10, 2020

Hon. J.B. Pritzker
Governor, State of Illinois
100 W. Randolph St., Suite 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601

Governor Pritzker,

For weeks, Illinois residents have exercised their First Amendment rights to make their voices heard about the critical issues facing our communities, our state, and our nation. And while we support the right to protest peacefully, we remain concerned with the restrictions facing Illinoisans during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the demonstrations taking place garner much of the media's attention, we continue to hear the voices of our constituents, those not protesting but who remain worried their businesses, their livelihoods and their communities remain at continued economic risk. They are equally confused by their inability to safely reopen and operate their establishments and places of businesses, while at the same time watching as tens of thousands of their fellow residents gather, albeit legally, in public places with little to no regard for recommended social distancing.

Other states in the Midwest are loosening their restrictions. Many argued that Michigan had some of the most onerous restrictions in place during the early stages of this public health crisis. It is now allowing in-person restaurant dining as long as the proper safety protocols are followed. In the coming weeks, pools and gyms in Michigan will also reopen. Wisconsin, our neighbor to the north, has been open for weeks and the [data](#) there shows a flattening of cases.

Illinois remains one of the most restrictive states in the nation. Illinois restaurants, unlike those in neighboring and Midwestern states, will still need to wait weeks before in-person dining could even be considered. Gyms in Illinois remain shuttered and pools are only open for limited activities.

These are but some of the examples of why we are asking you to revise your Restore Illinois plan and adopt the 14-day timeline, rather than the current 28 days. This would allow our state to move into Phase 4 on Friday, June 12. The [data](#) provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health supports such a move. According to the use of ventilators, hospital capacity and numbers of tests completed, each of the four regions listed is already operating at Phase 4 levels. These trends demonstrate that Illinois can move safely into this next phase.

Illinois residents have sacrificed much to help contain the spread of this disease, but many are nearing the point of no economic return. We believe that by working together, we can move our state forward, and our caucus would be willing to meet with you to discuss this important matter further.

Sincerely,

Sen. Bill Brady

Sen. Neil Anderson

Sen. Jason Barickman

Sen. John F. Curran

Sen. Don DeWitte

Sen. Dale Fowler

Sen. Steve McClure

Sen. Dan McConchie

Sen. Jim Oberweis

Sen. Jason Plummer

Sen. Sue Rezin

Sen. Dale Righter

Sen. Chapin Rose

Sen. Paul Schimpf

Sen. Brian Stewart

Sen. Dave Syverson

Sen. Jil Tracy

Sen. Chuck Weaver

Sen. Craig Wilcox