



ILLINOIS STATE SENATE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

April 23, 2020

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

Dear Governor Pritzker:

Transparency in government is a necessary hallmark of a well-functioning democracy. And at no time is robust transparency more vital to our society than during the current state of emergency when your office possesses unparalleled power and authority over every aspect of the daily lives of Illinois residents.

Members of our caucus have repeatedly asked for information on a variety of matters in both a formal and informal manner. While your office has been forthcoming on some of our requests, there has been no meaningful communication regarding several of those matters which we believe most important. Please consider this an official request for full accountability and transparency regarding the following matters:

- 1) In your press conferences and media interviews, you regularly refer to “medical experts” and “leading epidemiologists” who are advising and helping you make the enormously consequential decisions in regard to life and death and the economy:
 - Who are these experts upon whom you are relying?
 - Are there experts from other fields you are also consulting? Which fields and which experts?
 - Will you provide a comprehensive list with qualifications and backgrounds?
- 2) Also, during your public statements, you frequently refer to “models” regarding disease progression estimates that you are using to help make these decisions:
 - Upon which specific models are you relying?
 - How do those compare or contrast with the modeling used in other states or at the federal level?
 - How have those models and the estimates changed over recent weeks?
 - Will you release these models for public scrutiny?
- 3) During this crisis, you released a number of inmates early from state prisons but, to date, you have not released a list of those individuals. This information should have been released voluntarily. In response, several members of our caucus have filed a FOIA request to obtain this information. In addition to this information, the public deserves to know more about the criteria for these and any future releases, specifically:
 - What are the criteria to make decisions as to who is released?
 - Do all of those released fit that criteria?
 - If not, who specifically was released that did not fit the criteria, and why were they released?

- Is there a limit to the number of people you are willing to release, regardless of the criteria?
- Are there any violent crimes that are not eligible for release?
- Are there any non-violent crimes that are not eligible for release? As in, are there any non-violent felonies for which someone has been incarcerated, as in burglary, theft, home repair fraud (against seniors in particular) that are not eligible for early release?
- Does an individual's prior criminal history make any difference?

Effective leadership requires credibility, and broad transparency is an essential foundation to establish that credibility. Illinoisans are willing to make sacrifices as long as they have faith in their government.

We look forward to your responses to these questions, which we believe are necessary to accomplish what we all seek: a resolution of the crisis and a return to some semblance of normalcy.

Sincerely,



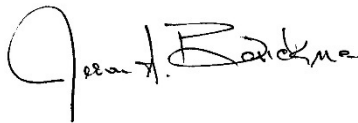
Leader Bill Brady



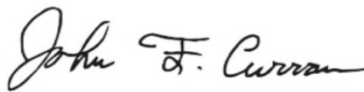
Senator Dan McConchie



Senator Neil Anderson



Senator Jason Barickman



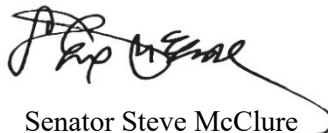
Senator John Curran



Senator Donald DeWitte



Senator Dale Fowler



Senator Steve McClure



Senator Jim Oberweis



Senator Jason Plummer



Senator Sue Rezin



Senator Dale Righter



Senator Chapin Rose



Senator Paul Schimpf



Senator Brian Stewart



Senator Dave Syverson



Senator Jil Tracy



Senator Chuck Weaver



Senator Craig Wilcox