



General Assembly  
State of Illinois

November 11, 2020

Hon. J.B. Pritzker  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Hon. Don Harmon  
President of the Senate  
327 Capitol Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

Hon. Michael J. Madigan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
300 Capitol Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker, Senate President Harmon, and House Speaker Madigan,

As the heads of the legislative and executive branches of Illinois' state government, we believe it is your duty and obligation to provide the citizens of this state with complete and utter transparency in the handling of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, particularly when it comes to the Administration's mitigation rules meant to combat the resurgence of the virus.

We believe that the best avenue to provide that transparency is by allowing the General Assembly to conduct a public hearing on the matter. In your capacity as leaders of both chambers, the two of you have the authority to make this happen. Without your willingness to take action on this matter, the members of the General Assembly are unable to move forward. Additionally, as a sign of unity, we are asking that the Governor join us in this call for a public hearing.

Throughout this pandemic, the legislative branch has been left out of the decision-making process and left in the dark regarding much of the data and science used to make these determinations - leaving us with more questions than answers.

We feel that a public hearing can help shed light on many of the questions that we and our constituents have about the ongoing mitigation rules, including how the current mitigations across the state single out the hospitality industry, despite contradictory claims from local health departments about their involvement with the spread of the virus.

With restaurants throughout the entire state having been forced to close their doors, hindering our local economies and resulting in thousands of layoffs, it is only appropriate to provide complete transparency to business owners and the people of Illinois.

We understand the seriousness of this pandemic and do not take it lightly, but the reality is, our businesses are suffering, and many will not survive. To us, it is long past time that legislators, as well as the millions of Illinois residents, get the answers we deserve. We urge all of you to support a public hearing on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sue Rezin".

Sue Rezin  
State Senator, 38th District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "La Shawn K. Ford".

La Shawn K. Ford  
State Representative, 8th District