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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

April 27, 2020

The Honorable Governor Tom Wolf
225 Main Capital Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor,

Thank you for listening to the voices of many throughout this Commonwealth who have been disproportionately underrepresented long before the start of COVID-19. Today, we the African American members from Allegheny County, stand united with you in creating the Response Task Force for Health Disparity. It is our hope that this task force will be empowered with the authority to review and create a pathway that ensures transparency, accountability, and access for communities of color to not only survive this pandemic but to thrive after it's gone.

Health disparities, poverty, and barriers to healthcare access and resources have been plaguing our Black, Hispanic, and Asian-Pacific communities for many years. We believe that in our current state there is a need to specifically monitor, create, and ensure that all resources at the state's disposal are being fairly and equitably distributed. It is our hope that this task force will be able to see that these resources are being intentionally directed to those underserved communities who have been negatively impacted before and during this pandemic.

Additionally, we believe there must be some intentionality to protecting access of these vulnerable communities beyond just mailing applications for mail-in voting ballots. We believe an immediate focus should be placed on support of businesses of color, especially for those who are not able to access the federal stimulus Payroll Protection Program. Many of our small business owners are sole proprietors or are independent contractors. These individuals have little to no employees, which eliminates them from ascertaining a majority of the of the federal funding. Furthermore, many of these same businesses do not have a longstanding relationship with commercial banks. Therefore, it is vital that this task force place a focus on creating resources that are specifically targeted to support those businesses in order to ensure that these companies can share in the relief.

This task force has the potential to look through the equity lens to identify and eliminate the inequalities these communities are facing. We applaud your decision to create the Response

COMMITTEES

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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
HUNGER
MANUFACTURING
STEEL
YMCA
BLUEGREEN
CLIMATE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

DELEGATIONS

ALLEGHENY

Task for Health Disparity and hope that it has a positive impact for many years to come. We stand ready to work with you to further these goals and objectives.

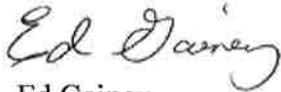
Yours In Service,



Austin Davis
State Representative
35th Legislative District



Jake Wheatley
State Representative
19th Legislative District



Ed Gainey
State Representative
24th Legislative District



Summer Lee
State Representative
36th Legislative District