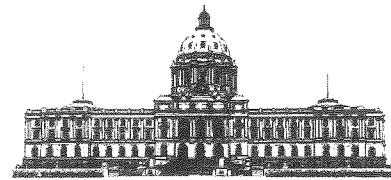


Senator Eric Pratt
95 Universtiy Ave W, Ste 3219
Saint Paul MN, 55155



Senate

State of Minnesota

Senator Michelle Benson
95 Universtiy Ave W, Ste 3219
Saint Paul MN, 55155

January 21, 2020

Governor Tim Walz,
130 State Capitol
75 Dr. Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

We appreciate that you agreed with us and the hospitality industry to relax restrictions on bars and restaurants effective January 11. Now, with the legislature back in session, it is time to put aside the partisan gamesmanship in addressing the pandemic and begin working together.

Our December 29 letter, in the spirit of cooperation and transparency between the branches of government, requested certain information be made available to our committees: We received your initial response on January 15th. We appreciate the summary of the Governor's priorities, a description of the bar and restaurant concerns, how outbreaks are determined, and the scripts used by contract tracers leading up to the issuance of E.O. 20-99 and E.O. 20-103.

We hope your administration will agree the citizens of Minnesota, especially those most impacted by your executive orders, deserve to know how decisions are being made and that you will direct your commissioners to immediately provide:

- The criteria used to close fitness centers, restaurants, bars, and lodging amenities in November with E.O. 20-99 and for extending the restrictions for some of the businesses with E.O. 20-103. The description of generic concerns with hospitality operations does not address the requests specific criteria and data used to make the decision.
- Please breakout cases by month, county, and source when exposure is deemed to be from a bar, restaurant, fitness center (including youth activities like dance, gymnastics, martial arts, hockey, etc.). It seems the hospitality and fitness industries are grouped within either the "Community: Outbreak" or with "Community: Known" categories in the Likely Exposure table on the MDH Situation Update page ([Situation Update for COVID-19 - Minnesota Dept. of Health \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us)). This request was not included in your response.
- An explanation of why future model updates are not planned. Last spring the administration had indicated SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Modeling would be updated last July. Your initial response states the model has not been updated and no additional updates are planned. We have learned much since the initial model was developed and used to justify the initial business closures and Stay-at-Home order, which is why the decision not to update is surprising.



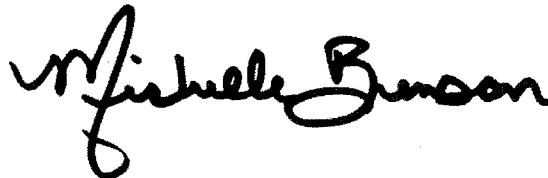
We must be an example to the people of Minnesota who expect us work together despite our ideological differences.

We look forward to your administration's timely reply.

Respectfully,



Sen. Eric Pratt



Sen Michelle Benson

Cc:

Sen. Paul Gazelka

Sen. Susan Kent

Sen. Bobby Joe Champion

Sen. Melissa Wicklund

Commissioner Steve Grove

Commissioner Jan Malcolm