



ALASKA STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees Local 52

Governor Michael J. Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
550 West 7th Avenue,
Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501
<Delivered Electronically>

March 23, 2020

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

In less than five days, more than 400 people signed a petition sharing their concerns for the health and safety of all Alaskans as COVID-19 infections multiply. The failure to close state offices and significantly reduce the number of employees who work together in shared spaces and interact with the public poses unnecessary risks for families and the very health care system on which we rely. As you know, this inaction can lead to rapid transmission of the coronavirus which can quickly overwhelm state institutions and local and regional healthcare facilities. Inaction at this time puts the life and safety of all Alaskans in jeopardy. Your immediate attention to this critical issue is requested by the signatories of the following petition:

The signers of this petition request that you take immediate action on behalf of the health and safety of all Alaskans by issuing a health mandate directing all state employees that are able, to work from home until the end of March or until a date that is deemed suitable for lowering the rate of transmission of coronavirus in Alaska. There have already been numerous cases reported across the state, including the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Ketchikan City Borough. It's only a matter of time before we learn that a state employee has tested positive for the disease - potentially transmitting it to their co-workers and the public. Delaying action places the public at greater risk and could overpower our medical infrastructure in the state.

This petition asks that employees that are unable to work from home and unable to work in the office, be placed on paid administrative leave, similar to procedures that are in effect for any workplace deemed unsafe due to an emergency like an earthquake or in this case, a pandemic.

Finally, the signers of this petition understand that it is important that some government services continue. For those employees that must continue to work in a COVID19 environment, we ask that you ensure they receive the appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) and pre-screening training to keep themselves, and the Alaskans they serve, safe.

Thank you for taking swift action on this issue of critical importance.

Signed,

Over 300 Alaskans, with 400 total signatures from families, friends, and loved ones of SOA Employees (names not provided to protect the signers against retaliation):



Area *Additional Comments from petition signers:*

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99501 *I want to work and not risk my safety and the safety of Alaskans around me at the same time. We have figured out how to work from home. Let us work from home without using our personal leave or leave with our pay.*

99611 *Either send us all home or let us work. Don't alter our workdays or hours.*

99801 *For the sake of my health, my coworker's health, my children's health, every Alaskan's health; Send. Us. Home.*

99803

99645 *If you wait until state employees are already infected to act, it is far, far too late. Inaction spreads the virus!*

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99501 *I am employed under the DOA myself*

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99801 *Send them home. State workers need to be protected too.*

99623 *We work closely with the public and all walks of life. You are endangering your Alaskan public servants!!!*

99504 *All public employees, state and local governments included should take these precautions*

99515 *Do it now!*

99507 *Thank you so much Sam Rhodes & Jake Metcalfe for taking our concerns seriously. You have no idea how much this means to all of us.*

99654 *Keep SOA employees safe!*

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99502 *Please protect Alaskans.*

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- 99708 *We cannot continue to help the public if we ourselves become ill. If one person in a mission-critical office (like the Division of Public Assistance) gets this virus, the entire office will have to close. Our state cannot afford to risk the health of the community, or the closure of safety net programs because of willful inaction. For some, telecommuting is an option. For others, it isn't -- but in those cases, we're begging you to close us to public and provide adequate protection so we can keep doing our jobs for the citizens of this great state.*
- 99687 *I am a State of Alaska DPA employee. I am immune compromised. I am a single mother. I want to help my fellow citizens, but I cannot do this while compromising my health and the safety and welfare of my family. Telecommuting is possible if they would just approve it.*
- 99801
- 99556 *Public employees need to be protected. Send them home to their families, pronto!*
- 99577
- 99801 *Someone from the Juneau office of the Department of Labor was sent home because of suspected covid19 symptoms. This is going to get very, very bad.*
- 99501 *Those that can should telework. Those that can't should be placed on paid administrative leave. Class 1 employees that are essential to public safety and health should know they will be paid for all hours worked. Finally, all working employees should have PPE and the training on how to use it!*
- 99801
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- 99568 *Being forced to be with the general public and expose the smallest children to this virus as well as the parents and Foster families by keeping OCS open and continuing family visits. Telecommuting would work for us as well. Workers can respond timely due to technologies. We have families too.*
- 99709
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- 99801
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- 99610 *And close all unnecessary businesses or require staff limits of under 10 i.e., car dealerships*
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- 99517 *Regardless of adequate spacing while static in their workstations, they all access the same areas, bathrooms, equipment and more throughout the day - where you still allow public access. That is not protection of any sort!*
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99801 *Of course you need to send workers home to work distance. Now.*

99929 *For the health and safety of all Alaskans let your administrative personnel work from home.*

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99504 *Send us home to protect ourselves and family*

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99645 *Follow your recommendations, lead by example, you are only as good as the staff that serve you. These are the public servants of Alaska!!!!*

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99517 *This is ridiculous. There are people coming into the DMV with no regard or care to what is happening. I know there is already an employee being tested! She was at work for a week during this time. PLEASE CLOSE THESE OFFICES*

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99503 *These workers aren't safe, forced to deal with the public where so many others have closed down entirely. Reckless, and careless. Send public state employees' home to wait this out.*

99507 *State workers should not be forced to go to work with the public during this pandemic that has begun to affect Alaska and already heavily affects the entire world.*

99687-
1445 *You can see my video post on Facebook if you like. We want to serve the public governor Dunleavy but we are scared and deserve protection and accommodation. You heard us and said we can work from home yet some of us need laptops to do so.*

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99504 *Give state workers the same care you give the rest of Alaska!*

99712 *Send them all home please.*

99516 *Send them home, or you will undermine every positive thing you have done in stopping the spread of COV19.*

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99502 *Scared employees are distracted employees; distracted employees are ineffective employees. There no reason to send ineffective, scared people into the office unless absolutely necessary.*

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99701 *The Division of Public Assistance is absolutely critical right now especially given the economic crisis so many Alaskans are about to be faced with as everything shuts down and income is lost. I cannot even begin to fathom the influx of applications we are going to receive for benefits as well as Medicaid for people who get sick who have never needed medical care before. How is it the Governor and the DHSS Commissioner do not understand that by keeping the lobby open to the public just because one or two people may not have a phone that they are putting us in danger and as soon as ONE of us gets sick, JUST ONE, our entire department will be shut down and they are going to lose the productivity of 30 employees. Their reasoning is completely illogical and counterintuitive!!!*

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99709 *Please protect all Alaskans by sending nonessential State workers home.*
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99712 *We need to flatten the curve for the health and safety of all Alaskans. Do the right thing.*
99801 *Do the right thing!!!*
99709 *Please protect all Alaskans.*
The schools, gathering locations and public buildings have closed.
Please allow all public employees to telecommute

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99603 *Please protect the state workforce before its too late!*
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99501 *It's not fair for state employees to endanger their lives!*
99508 *Now!*
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99654 *My work is such that I could do it remotely from home. I was told that VPNs and work processes are in place. However, upper management will not approve telecommuting and are not providing staff with an explanation as to why.*
99801 *Cubicles are not safe!! We still have to pass each other in the halls and share bathrooms. We have not seen any disinfecting being done in any public/common areas and most of our janitorial staff isn't even working! What happens when we all get sick and you have no employees!?! Do the right thing!!*

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99801 *Do we need a death in Alaska before we shut down Alaska? Why aren't we being proactive and stopping it before it gets here like Washington? Shut down for 2-3 weeks. Everyone stay home and quarantine, we can stop this thing from coming into Alaska.*

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99518 *Protect state workers...allow telework for all*
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99611 *If you really care about Alaskans then sign the bill protecting state workers*



99516 *Telework is 100 percent doable for most employees, immediately. Others should be in administrative leave. A state employee is not essential if their presence results in the additional spread of Coronavirus and that person's job does not directly involve safety. A business license renewal is not worth someone's life. These are the kinds of positions he is keeping face to face with the masses. I don't want anyone to die over a license renewal that you can complete online or in 6 months. The Governors inaction is putting smart supervisors in a position of deciding who gets a fighting chance by allowing telework and who doesn't. It's Egregious and this inaction is forever damaging the work culture and trust of these dedicated people. Many public employees who have been steadfast and complimented for their dedication during natural disaster will now have to make a choice whether to become insubordinate to keep themselves and their employees alive. The Governor has failed his staff. Dynamic, dedicated logical people will be lost through coronavirus and complacency if State employees aren't allowed to isolate with the rest of Alaskans. State employees with kids risk bringing coronavirus home. This is illogical when the same Kids were sent home to protect them. State employees are out of options for childcare with school closed. Does the governor expect us to leave small children alone?
These are extraordinary circumstances calling for unique and compassionate policy making. Send State employees home immediately. Follow the science, the CDC, learn lessons from places like Italy and China. Save Alaskans now by letting them continue to work from home rather than die.*

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99515 *I had a telework agreement, which isn't actually needed under the policy for a health pandemic, until 3/31. I can do 100% of my job teleworking and I have the support of my supervisor. However, my Director will not renew my agreement and wants me to work 2 days a week in the office, which I cannot do because I currently have 4 children in my home not in school. I don't want to sign an agreement that I cannot commit to. This is unacceptable. My counterparts and supervisor at work were denied their telework agreements. When the governor speaks he supports those who can telework to telework and speak with their supervisors but we are being denied. I don't want to bring home a sickness to my family by needlessly going into a large office building with numerous shared spaces.*

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99801 *I'm high risk, due to asthma and my husband as well. He's 64 with diabetes and heart issues. I need to be home, but I need my salary as well.*

99507 *Send them home!*

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99508 *Please keep public employees and the public safe!*

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99517 *Keep them safe sir*
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99516 *Also TA's in the school DST whom they are making come in if they haven't left the state. I still don't feel safe. Just doing busy work.*
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99502 *Dept of public assistance workers CAN and SHOULD work from home!*
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99502 *We need to have as many people as possible working home and not interacting with other people. Alaska is uniquely positioned geographically which means we can make a difference if we act NOW. Otherwise we will overburden our medical systems. Thank you, Sarah Murphy, MD*
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99577 *The State has an opportunity to help flatten the curve by keeping non essential staff home. Please do the right thing and send them home.*
99709 *Please close state offices and send employees home!*
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99503 *People need to continue to work and not end up relying on public assistance. Allow your workforce to continue contributing to the state government and our state.*
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99557 *Please allow my family to work from home as they are at risk also*
99645 *Allow state employees to work remotely.*
99518 *Send them home or risk spreading COVID-19 even further.*
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99574 *In the interest of public safety and for the safety of our workers, send them home !*
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99687 *Please allow employees to work from home, the safety of the families depend on it.*



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99508 *All non-essential personnel need to be home, just like the public sector. Remote work is our new future.*

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99709 *Please let all nonessential state employees to work from home. Anyone who reports to a desk, should be doing their job from home during this crisis.*

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99824 *Please do the right thing and send SOA employees home WITH PAY so THAT we MAY continue to live happy lives WITH OUR FAMILIES in this beautiful place.*

99518 *Of all entities, you should be the example! When health department Employees, who could easily work optimally from home, have no directive, or guidance, I worry for those critical state employees we needed to get us through this well!*

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99503 *Follow CDC guidance, these conditions are NOT safe and maintaining them is endangering both your employees and the public they serve.*

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99645 *State employees are essential to continuing the states responsibilities during this difficult time. With children at home as well, this will help continue education and productivity in a controlled environment. Reducing the worry for a need for childcare for many as well.*

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99574 *Shut it down. The state needs a statewide shelter in place announcement and travel ban mandates. The least you can do is keep state workers home.*

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99517 *My child and I have to stay home but her mother has to go to work. How is that safe*

99517 *This virus is no joke. We need swift, effective action to protect all of our constituents!*

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99517 *There are still so many people out and about. We need to do more.*



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99801 *It is inconceivable that State employees are still having to go to their offices, when the rest of us are urged to shelter in place. The delays and inconsistencies between departments and even divisions in getting telework approvals is criminal.*

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99503 *Help keep us all safe. Send our public workers home!
Thank you!*

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99835 *Any employee who can perform their work from an alternative worksite should be at that alternative worksite, not the office. This is especially true of clerical workers whose desks are in close proximity. When lives are at stake, VPN access is a small matter.*

99801 *Shutdown ALL of Alaska NOW! Send the state workers home!!!!*

99801 *ER nurse and unwilling soldier in this battle. You have the power to fight this now. Please do everything you can to not have our state emulate Italy. Time is running out.*

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99801 *Totally unacceptable for nonessential state workers to still be going to the office for work each day, especially with STATE MANDATED open floor plans that don't allow for workers to follow CDC guidelines on social distancing. Anyone who can work from home, should be allowed and encouraged to. Our hospitals are not equipped to assist the number of patients projected if no measures to slow the virus are taken, and thousands will die. Help protect Alaska!*

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99507 *As a public health professional for 40 years, I think I have some background in this. Please close public buildings. Please allow state employees who can, to work from home. You can do this! It is the 21st century*

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99577 *All employees that can work from home should. I know I did work home when there were system problems and have when I was sick.*

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99801 *Let people go home and work and care for children who are out of school!*

99508 *Send them home and pay them.*

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99801 *Let those public employees who can, and want to, work remotely from home do so. That will make it safer for those who can't work remotely and for the entire state. Flatten the curve.*

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99516 *Stop playing a game with your people's lives. They are the resource you need to protect most.*

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99507 *We all know it is possible to work from homes for quite some time. Even with periodic office meets.*

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99507 *Lock down the state, send State workers that are not providing necessary services home, they can work from home.*

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99502 *And mandate a ban on travel to Alaska!*

99712 *We need to be able to work in a safe environment, since this pandemic I do not feel safe at work.*

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99712 *We need to be able to work in a safe environment, since this pandemic I do not feel safe at work.*

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99577 *We are getting set up to work from home and are now told no more than 50% of employees may do so. In offices that are closed to the public anyway, why force us to stay on site.*

We have not even had hand sanitizer provided!

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99801 *Protect your workers. Protect us all.
Thank you.*

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99515 *If you count back from receiving a positive test result, you get 1-5 days for results, 2-3 days when the person is ill but hasn't gone to the doctor yet, and incubation is ~6 days. So by the time you got a positive result from community spread of the SARS-CoV-19 you're actually possibly two weeks behind. If you actually want to stop it, you have to be proactive and not wait for an SOA office to become the origin of a community outbreak.*

99603 *I am a public state employee. And there is no reason for my office doors to be open. For every individual that has walked into our office what they wanted done could have been completed by phone or through the Internet. I am putting other coworkers in harm as well as the other public by staying open when I am not needed to.*

99515 *Break the chain of transmission, have non essential employees telecommute/work from home. Show Alaskans you care by helping our state employees help flatten the curve!
- Former SOA employee and current medical student*

99835 *Please err on the side of caution. This is life and death for many of us.*

Thank you.

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99801 *Alaska doesn't have the hospital capacity to handle this on a major scale.... PLEASE let's send them home and flatten that curve!!! It's what's best in the long term.*

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99801 *This situation is a matter of life and death. Human life is more important than economics at this point. Hopefully if we work to contain it now, when we emerge from this, we will be stronger and ready to rebuild in healthy, creative ways.*

99515 *It's irresponsible on many levels to be sending state employees not directly involved in emergency health response to work. Please send them home for the sake of their families and our community.*

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99709 *Do it for their children.*

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99559 *It's so important! Please it's only temporary, but needs to happen for a few months.*

99517 *All state employees in the Atwood need to be reporting remotely. The elevators don't have the recommended 6ft. Width recommended by the CDC. There has been potential exposure on the 6th floor of Atwood, which means most of the building has been exposed. Please help protect the employees the public relies on. Do what's right, no matter the financial burden. This is a moment in history unlike any we have experienced in the modern age. Take the right steps and allow us to work from home! Thanks.*

99709 *If they're non-essential, there's no reason for them to be working.*

99508 *They work hard for all Alaskans. They deserve to be protected. Join the 21st century and let them work at home.*

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99603 *Why is the Governor forcing State employees into the workplace who could be working from home? And thereby unnecessarily endangering yet more Alaskans. What is the logic?*

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99508 *Protect all employees. Send them home.*

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Please send the workers home

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99801 *Keeping non-essential state workers at work puts all of us at risk! Office buildings, cubicles, breathing in the same air, touching surfaces in the lobby and bathrooms spread the virus - not good for workers who are vulnerable, and then there will be more spread*



to the community. Someone with real health care experience and concern for all Alaskans would know this. And it conflicts with city's instructions for citizens to hunker down. Ridiculous! Send them home!!!!

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99801 *Let state workers work from home!!!*

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99709 *Keep people healthy. Let them work from home!*

99835 *Keep our people safe... send them home!*

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99835 *Keep our people safe... send them home!*

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99501 *When you send some employees home w/ PC's and work, it promotes a negative connotation.*

Send all employees home.

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99577 *This is ridiculous to keep public employees cooped up in close quarters. I'm sure most can do their work from home. If not, cut them some slack! These are dangerous times!*

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99603 *This is oh so serious. Thank you for all you've done, but please don't delay to take this vital step to help save lives! People have GOT to stay home. It's all we can do.*

99801 *I've been suffering for the last month with a virus. Not corona as far as I know. But I am weakened and my husband going and coming home from work puts me at risk.*

99567 *Send my daughter home!*

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99503 *Why is the DMV open...we don't save lives, provide food, supply gas ect...this is SELFISH on the Stares part*

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99574 *The ONLY way to minimize the impact of this virus is to include everyone in the STAY HOME directive! Federal and State workers need to be temporarily released from their responsibilities so they can be safe.*

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99507 *State workers need to stay home. Everyone possible needs to stay home.*

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99603 *Come on buddy. You need to save us here. Step up. Now is the time.*

99503 *Come on people! Common sense!*



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99824 *Let's be safe for all Alaskans.
Thank you for your leadership on this matter.*
99503 *These are your citizens, you should put their health first.*
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99664 *Model the behavior we need to survive.*
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99801 *Everyone is made safer by more people remaining in their homes. Let people be a
meaningful part of the efforts to increase public safety by minimizing to the smallest level
possible number of people required to actively be in offices.*
80528
89646 *Protect our state employees also they can protect the rest of us! Nonessential employees
should immediately stop going into the office on a daily basis.*
32118 *Please let state employees work from home as much as possible. We need to keep each
other safe and healthy!*
61068
20855
4679
4858 *Recall Dunleavy!!
Maine*
55369 *You're putting families at risk for work that can be done in the safety of their own homes.
How many people have to get sick or die before you make the call?!?!? DO IT!!!*
55407
39401
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97322
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97322
97213
99208 *Send workers home to be safe with their families!*
98404 *This directly effects my family! Keep employees safe! Send them home!*
98404 *Sent them home! Create safe environments! This effects my loved ones!*
99205
98816 *Please!*
98405



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82801 *Keep all our people safe!*

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98518 *The Atwood building has no way to allow for fresh air to circulate, the same stagnant air circulates through the building. People who are in the "standardized" cubicles such as myself have no walls for protection from one person to the next.*

I work on a floor with over 70 people that are all in an open floor concept. We all enter and exit through the same two doors and all share cafe quarters. If one person has COVID-19 it would spread like wildfire throughout the office. There are several employees who are at high risk and have high risk family members but do not have the option to go home unless they use personal leave per management or go into leave without pay.

The office has the ability to telework and yet we are still asked to show up Monday.

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