

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



March 18, 2020

Commissioner Kelly Tshibaka  
10<sup>th</sup> Fl. State Office Building  
Juneau, AK 99811  
<Delivered Electronically>

Dear Commissioner Tshibaka,

We are writing to request that you take immediate and decisive action to protect state employees and the public from COVID-19. State employees are at significant risk, and we must not allow state institutions to serve as vectors for this virus. We would appreciate your consideration of the following recommendations:

- All state employees who are capable of working from home should do so immediately.
- State employees who must remain at work in person must be provided with personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, and infection prevention training to minimize risk of transmission.
- State employees must be reassured they will be paid, and not penalized, for remaining home if they feel ill. Many of our state employees are lower wage, and cannot afford lost wages if they are penalized for self-quarantining.
- The state should have a policy of minimizing direct contact among state employees, and between state employees and the public.

With confirmed cases in multiple jurisdictions, an inadequate number of test kits resulting in many potential cases going untested, and no meaningful travel restrictions from other regions of high infection rates, Alaska will almost certainly face exponential growth of COVID-19 within a matter of weeks if not days. Please take aggressive action to prevent avoidable deaths among our state employee workforce, and to ensure the state itself is not a vector for transmission.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Zack Fields".

Representative Zack Fields

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins".

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins