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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

CHAIRWOMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON RURAL
DEVELOPMENT, AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

March 15, 2020

Governor Kim Reynolds
State of Iowa
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds,

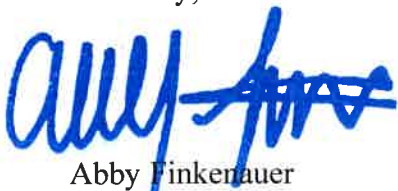
Last night, you announced the first documented case of COVID-19 resulting from community spread. We are undoubtedly entering a new phase of this pandemic in Iowa, which requires heightened precautions and additional measures to protect our families and neighbors. The situation calls for a coordinated and concise response. We must act across state agencies to minimize confusion and prevent unnecessary disruptions to our communities.

Iowans need a sense of what's ahead and where they can find information to keep their families safe. No Iowan should be left behind when it comes getting the latest updates on the virus and the state's response. For that reason, I ask you to develop a cross-agency plan for state facility, school, large event, and service closures that details what state operations and other events Iowans may expect to see end or scaled down if COVID-19 continues to spread and when.

Iowans also need a single resource—one platform—where they can access the latest updates on the virus and the state's response. I respectfully urge you to update the Iowa Department of Public Health's website to include a complete overview of your Administration's policies related to COVID-19 and any information on any related closures or changes in operations. While the page currently houses dozens of webinars and fact sheets, additional information on action taken by other state agencies to-date would prove useful. For example, the Iowa Department of Corrections cancellation of visitation is either not clearly linked or is missing altogether.

This is a difficult time for Iowa and I hope we continue communicating with each other, local leaders, and our public health officials to ensure that our communities have the tools and resources they need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'abby finkenaue', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Abby Finkenaue
Member of Congress