



## Ohio House Democratic Caucus

March 31, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We the Democratic members of the Ohio House of Representatives write to urge your swift action to approve Ohio's Major Disaster Declaration request.

On March 9th, Governor Mike DeWine declared a State of Emergency in Ohio in response to the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Since that time, we have seen how COVID-19 has impacted our local communities across the state. As of March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 there are 1,933 confirmed cases and thirty-nine deaths in Ohio. State and local entities have committed time and resources to the fullest extent responding to the pandemic, however, these resources are finite.

Per Governor DeWine's request, a number of federal agencies and programs can provide Ohio with funding to deliver direct services to Ohioans and support our economy and health and human services sector:

- Crisis Counseling Programs
- Disaster Unemployment Assistance
- HOPE Coalition America
- Internal Revenue Service
- U.S. Administration for Community Living and Disaster Food Assistance
- U.S. Department of Agriculture

Ohio's economy depends on our businesses and industries, such as agriculture and manufacturing to provide not only for our state, but nationally and globally. It is vitally important we continue to support their operations and employees. Many hardworking Ohioans have found themselves without a job and more reliant, now than ever, on public assistance. It has been a team effort involving many public, private, and non-profit organizations to meet these needs. We are proud of their efforts, but know there is more than can be done to support those who are both physically and economically vulnerable.

Our constituents face these hardships every day and as legislators, it is our duty to keep our promise to Ohioans that we work for them. As a state, we need to care for the health and wellbeing of our citizens during and after the COVID-19 emergency. With the additional resources afforded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, we will be able to sustain and support Ohioans as we all face this pandemic.

Thank you for consideration and attention on this urgent matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emilia Sykes". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "E" and a prominent flourish at the end.

Rep. Emilia Sykes, Minority Leader  
House District 34