



December 4, 2020

Assemblymember Frank Bigelow
Assemblymember Ken Cooley
Assemblymember Jim Cooper
Assemblymember James Gallagher
Assemblymember Kevin Kiley

Senator Brian Dahle
Senator Richard Pan
Senator Jim Nielsen

Dear Legislators:

On behalf of the United Chamber Advocacy Network (UCAN), a coalition of seven local chambers of commerce, we are writing to express our collective concerns regarding restrictions relative to the COVID 19 pandemic and urge you and your colleagues to intercede on behalf of California's small businesses.

Leaders of our organizations met recently to develop priorities for the next legislative session. It is abundantly clear that the chambers and the over 5,000 members they represent can't afford to wait until 2021 to advocate on behalf of those members....not simply their legislative priorities but more immediately, their members' very survival.

As you know, yesterday Governor Newsom announced a regional stay at home order based on ICU bed capacity. In his press conference, he and the Secretary of HHS said the goal of the order was to prevent "mixing" but noted that "mixing" within essential businesses was allowed. **We view ALL of our businesses as essential** and as such, recommend they too remain open, following appropriate occupancy, masking and social distance protocols.

What was promised in mid-March as "two weeks to slow the spread" has turned into eight and a half months, alternating between limitations and lockdowns....with no end in sight.

We recognize this disease targets the vulnerable and we know it often concentrates in specific neighborhoods and is spread primarily through in-home or private event contact. We all understand that "meat cleaver" solutions do not work and, in the case of COVID-related lockdowns, are crushing small businesses, harming employees, their families, and devastating local communities.

The UCAN chambers echo the views shared yesterday by the Beverly Hills City Council in response to Los Angeles County's lock-down order prohibiting indoor dining:

*.... the City Council is requesting the County **focus on implementing restrictions based on data and localized to the area of the outbreak.** The resolution further states that all future Los Angeles County Public Health Officer Orders **be based on actual data related to a particular industry, sector, or area and not be applied unilaterally to every jurisdiction in Los Angeles County.**"*

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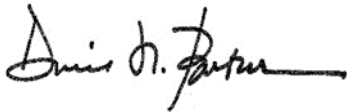
We note that other states, including New York, have adopted a more micro-targeted approach utilizing zip codes vs. basing lockdowns on entire counties or regions.

We respectfully request you to share our perspective and that of many of our partner business associations with your colleagues in the Legislature.

Moreover, we strongly urge you to convene legislative oversight hearings immediately and call on Governor Newsom and his administration to manage the state's response to COVID-19 in a similar manner.

As representatives of the people, during this unprecedented period of executive authority, the Legislature must exercise the equal powers granted to it in our state and federal constitutions and by American tradition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David N. Butler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David N. Butler

Advocate

UCAN - United Chamber Advocacy Network

One Capitol Mall, Suite 800, Sacramento, CA 95184 916.505.6602

El Dorado County, El Dorado Hills, Elk Grove, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Roseville, Yuba-Sutter Chambers of Commerce