

**FRANK A. FARRY, MEMBER**  
142ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT  
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COMMITTEES

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

*Subcommittee Chairman*  
*on Security and Emergency Response Readiness*



**House of Representatives**

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

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April 30, 2020

Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Honorable Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary  
Department of Health  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Health and Welfare Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor West  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf and Secretary Levine:

We write to you today, as Bucks County's elected officials, in support of our Bucks County Commissioners' efforts related to COVID-19. In our County, we are seeing a high percentage of deaths, and even hospitalizations, that are attributable to COVID-19 are also associated with occupants of long-term care facilities. In fact, yesterday, April 29, was our deadliest day so far with sadly 20 deaths. All 20 deaths were among residents of long-term facilities.

We commend our County Health Department and Dr. David Damsker in their tireless efforts during this pandemic. Their efforts also include a robust contact tracing process. This research is only possible if a county has a strong department of health, which the majority of the counties in the Commonwealth do not.

Recently, Dr. Damsker has repeatedly reported very little community spread in Bucks County. It is for this reason we respectfully request a change in the metric being used to calculate the transition between the phases of recovery. The concerns expressed by our County regarding the 50 cases per 100,000 metric is well founded. With the acknowledgment that we have very little community spread and a significant amount of our cases are from long-term facilities, we hope that the state Department of Health could work with our County Health Department to determine when Bucks County can safely phase in reopening.

Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor  
Honorable Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary  
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Thank you so much for considering our County's request, and we hope you recognize the efforts of our County Health Department in making your future decisions.

Sincerely,



Representative Frank Farry  
142<sup>nd</sup> District



Representative Craig Staats  
145<sup>th</sup> District



Representative Todd Polinchock  
144<sup>th</sup> District



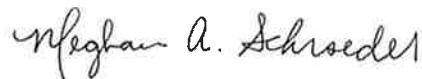
Representative Wendi Thomas  
178<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Robert Tomlinson  
6<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Bob Mensch  
24<sup>th</sup> District



Representative Meghan Schroeder  
29<sup>th</sup> District



Representative Kathleen Tomlinson  
18<sup>th</sup> District