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November 19, 2020

Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary Department of Health Health and Welfare Building 8th Floor West 625 Forster Street Harrisburg, PA 17120

via email: Dave Toth, Legislative Director

Re: Updated guidance issued November 17, 2020

Dear Secretary Levine:

On November 17, you announced updated restrictions on travelers coming into and leaving the Commonwealth.

As a state senator representing a district along the Maryland border, I have received several questions from constituents seeking clarification to your order and its applicability to specific scenarios.

Your guidance provides five exemptions to the department's travel restrictions including: work, medical care, military, transit through the state and additional exemptions issued by the department.

Many residents who reside in communities along the Maryland border travel to Maryland for groceries, dry cleaning, purchase fuel and other automotive services, as well as other goods and services.

York County also has several volunteer fire companies that provide fire and rescue mutual aid services to our Maryland neighbors. How does this guidance apply to volunteer firefighters who are asked to assist in calls across the Mason Dixon line?

Secretary Rachel Levine November 19, 2020 Page 2

Conversely, how will your guidance impact Marylanders who patronize businesses for goods and services, as well as first responders who assist in calls in York County and other border communities?

Under the department's guidance, it is unclear how this guidance will impact York Countians.

Furthermore, one of the main frustrations I have heard is the inability to voluntarily obtain a COVID-19 test in order to travel. To this day, Pennsylvanians are unable to be tested without exhibiting symptoms or having direct contact with a COVID-19 positive patient.

These tests are still not readily available.

With these orders set to take effect on Friday, November 20, it is imperative to provide clarity to avoid confusion on this important matter that could have a profound impact on many residents and first responders across the 28th Senatorial District.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Kristin Phillips-Hill Senator, 28th District