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March 3, 2021

Ms. Alison Beam, Acting Secretary
Department of Health
Health and Welfare Building
8th Floor West
625 Forster Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

via email: Dave Toth, Legislative Director, Department of Health

Re: Access to COVID-19 vaccine by out of state residents unaffiliated with Pennsylvania

Dear Acting Secretary Beam:

There is a tremendous demand for the COVID-19 vaccine all across York County and our Commonwealth. The demand for the vaccine continues to outpace the supply provided to our Commonwealth.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) has previously stated that our Commonwealth does not have a residency requirement in place for the COVID-19 vaccine. I find this troubling as the allocation of vaccine is based on the adult population of our state, as determined by the federal government's COVID-19 supply and operations planning process.

I recognize the CDC's policy and goal is to ensure that everyone can receive the vaccine without barriers, to the greatest extent possible. In previous guidance issued to states pertaining to the COVID-19 vaccine implementation, the CDC stated that vaccine must be distributed without discrimination within a prioritized group. An exception is allowed for limitations based solely on public health grounds.

Ms. Alison Beam, Acting Secretary

March 3, 2021

Page 2

The CDC included specific language in a term and condition in the Notice of Award for COVID-19 Funding issued in Cooperative Agreement IP10-1901 on 1/15/21: “To achieve the public health objectives of ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of all Americans, recipient must distribute or administer the vaccine without discriminating on non-public health grounds within a prioritized group”

Based on the above language, I believe it is the CDC’s position that a state may decide that protecting the health of its residents requires limiting vaccinations to state residents and non-state residents who are affiliated with our Commonwealth.

To date, more than twice as many out-of-state residents have received the vaccine than York County residents.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the Pennsylvania Department of Health immediately implement a COVID-19 vaccine restriction to prohibit out-of-state residents with no affiliation to our Commonwealth from receiving an inoculation by a Pennsylvania provider.

Sincerely,



Kristin Phillips-Hill
Senator, 28th District