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March 17, 2020

Governor Walz:

On behalf of our members and all workers, I wish to extend our appreciation for the issuance of Executive Order 20-05 to provide immediate relief to displaced and unemployed workers as a result of COVID-19 outbreak.

As the response situation develops on the ground, I encourage you to consider the following items for administrative or legislative dispensation to ensure the health and well-being of workers during this crisis:

- No cost COVID-19 testing
- Paid sick leave for all workers including no penalties for calling in sick
- Workers Compensation benefits for those infected as a result of their work
- Appropriate protective wear/gear for front line workers, including grocery store and retail workers.
- Child care for grocery worker's children

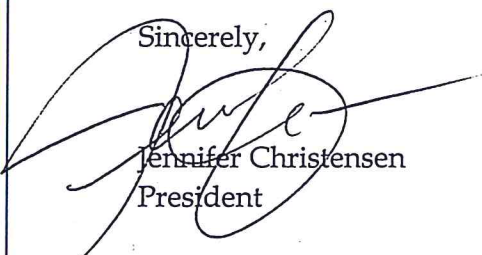
Our grocery store and retail workers are now front line workers in the COVID-19 response and mitigation efforts. They should be designated as such during this emergency and afforded the opportunity for immediate access to testing protocols and monitoring. Additionally we want to coordinate with your team to ensure that these essential workers are provided with important protective gear and equipment. These workers are now the main point of contact for the public in securing essential goods and supplies during this shutdown of social activities and businesses. Many also are in need of child care as a result of school closures in order to do their jobs.

In addition, our medical cannabis program workforce is also in need of examination in the wake of this crisis. We encourage you to consider the following:

- Coverage/treatment for medical cannabis workers as healthcare workers
- Allow for changes in dispensing requirements to accommodate alternative methods that provide patient and worker protections

We stand ready to assist your efforts in ensuring the safety and security of Minnesota workers during this most difficult time for all Minnesotans and their families.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Christensen
President

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