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BILL MONTFORD
Minority Leader Pro Tempore

February 27, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of the State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis,

As members of the Senate Democratic Caucus, we are very concerned about the Center for Disease Control's recent update regarding the spread of coronavirus, also known as "COVID-19." In a strongly worded warning, the CDC has asked Americans to prepare for more disruptive measures to address the outbreak.

With many details left out of the press conference you held this morning, we would like to ascertain what specific plans are being made in our state.

Specifically, we ask that you address the following questions:

1. What is the Department of Health's plan to mitigate the spread of coronavirus should a case be confirmed in Florida?
2. What is the Department of Health doing to prepare and protect hospitals, hospital workers, and all health care workers?
3. Are there different protocols for long-term care facilities, including nursing homes and assisted living facilities? Are staff and visitor screening protocols currently under consideration given that the elderly and immune-compromised are especially vulnerable to the disease?
4. Will the Department of Health be providing face masks to the public? Is there a stockpile of facemasks? Will basic surgical masks protect from COVID-19? If not, does the Department of Health suggest the public wear N95 Respirators designed to control exposure to the infection? And if so, will the agency be in a position to supply

BILL GALVANO
President of the Senate

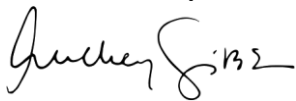
DAVID SIMMONS
President Pro Tempore

- them given that many typical suppliers are already sold out or have drastically raised their prices?
5. Has the Department of Health been communicating with local health departments to coordinate a plan to contain the virus? Do those plans include quarantines, and if so, how are they expected to be executed?
 6. Will the Department of Health coordinate with school districts, higher education institutions, and community centers to create emergency plans?
 7. Does the Department of Health have adequate staff and resources to control an outbreak? Are there stockpiles of medical supplies?
 8. Who pays for and produces the test kits and are there adequate resources to acquire them? Will Florida be able to test on its own without the CDC? How soon will the results of the test kits be available?
 9. Does the Department of Health anticipate it will communicate to the public what provisions might be necessary for individuals to prepare for an outbreak?
 10. What is the procedure for health care workers to report suspected cases of COVID-19?
 11. We understand that the Division of Emergency Management is in a support-role right now – what type of support are they offering the Department of Health at this time? Do you anticipate that the Division of Emergency Management will play a larger role, and if so, what additional responsibilities might they assume? Are they trained and equipped to deal with disease outbreaks such as COVID-19?

We would be most happy to meet with you to discuss this matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Senator Audrey Gibson



Senate Democratic Minority Leader
District 6

Senator Lori Berman



Vice Chair, Senate Health Policy Committee
District 31