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The Honorable Joe Biden
The President-elect
1401 Constitutional Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear President-elect Biden:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide your Administration with a list our most critical needs as we continue battling the coronavirus pandemic.

- 1. The most important thing you can do is to get us more vaccine.** We can deal with most of the other challenges surrounding its distribution, but the need for more is an imperative.
2. Ohio is prepared to move to mass vaccine and mobile distribution sites. In fact, we have identified more than 100 sites so far. **We would welcome the federal government coming in and setting up mass sites, but only if it means that more vaccine is coming into Ohio.** We are not lacking the infrastructure. We are lacking the vaccine.
3. Seasonal/migrant workers -- a group critical to our country's farm economy and one that works hard to ensure access to affordable, healthy food -- frequently travel across several state and federal borders to areas with varying COVID-19 vaccination protocols. **We need a national strategy with vaccine attached to it for this vulnerable population.**
4. **We need a national television, radio, and social media campaign on the merits of the vaccine.** We also need a national campaign on the importance of continued mask wearing over the next several months as the vaccine is distributed.
5. **In addition to your commitment to provide 100 percent federal funding for the Ohio National Guard COVID-19 missions, we request an extension of Title 32 authority beyond March 31, 2021, at least through the end of the State's fiscal year on June 30, 2021.** Extending Title 32 authority at 90-day intervals creates turmoil regarding pay and benefits for service members and their families causes uncertainty for our partners and places a large and unnecessary administrative burden on the system. Additionally, the decisions to extend have been announced very late, which further compounds these issues.
6. **In addition to your commitment to ask Congress to provide \$350 billion to state and local governments, we request greater flexibility with how we can use this critical federal funding.** This would enable state and local governments to better target federal dollars to the most critical state and local services and programs that will stimulate our economy.

7. Since the onset of COVID-19, a record number of Ohioans have applied for unemployment, often resulting in increased enrollment in Medicaid. **It is critical to extend temporary increased Medicaid support for states beyond the period of public health emergency to align with the gradual process of economic recovery.** Further, tying the enhanced federal Medicaid match (eFMAP) to the Public Health Emergency declaration, which can only be extended by the Health and Human Services Secretary in 90-day increments, results in significant budgetary uncertainty for states and creates a budget cliff when the Public Health Emergency ends. **Therefore, an eFMAP "off-ramp," like the step-down that occurred after the financial crisis, would also be impactful for all states.**

8. **To better support our public health systems to keep our populations healthy and promote individual and community health, we need significant federal investments in the public health infrastructure for state and local health departments.**

9. There are more than 1 million people in Ohio who can't participate in the modern economy and in education and healthcare systems due to a lack of Internet access. **Ohio requests flexible resources to provide a range of broadband solutions for people who live in underserved areas and for those who have barriers keeping them from being able to connect.** There are numerous federal programs to help bring broadband to our communities that can be difficult to apply for because of the strings attached. We appreciate the opportunities provided by the federal government and hope we can work on finding more flexible solutions.

We are very grateful that your team and Operation Warp Speed have allowed us to move to the immediate use of unused vaccine from the long-term care program. Further, we thank you for considering these other vital requests and look forward to working together with you and your Administration to protect the lives and livelihoods of all Ohioans.

Very respectfully yours,



Mike DeWine
Governor

MR. PRESIDENT -
YOUR TEAM HAS BEEN GREAT TO
WORK WITH. WE APPRECIATE THE OUTREACH.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU! MY BEST
TO YOU.

