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April 14th, 2020

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Dear Governor Hogan,

On behalf of our thousands of members around the state, we, the undersigned organizations, urge Governor Hogan, Speaker Jones, President Ferguson, and Members of the General Assembly to act urgently to protect Maryland's vulnerable residents and its frontline essential employees who are at extreme risk due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The lives and humanity of state employees and the citizens they serve must be vigorously protected. All efforts to protect them should be taken immediately to ensure public health and safety.

We strongly request the following actions be taken:

1. PPE should be supplied and not restricted to prevent the virus at all state buildings, particularly 24/7 facilities, where employees are being mandated to work
2. The Agencies must share the written plan for dealing with an outbreak in each facility and institution
3. Health & Safety Protocols should be consistent and enforced across the state
 - a. Regular entrance exams need to be performed by trained medical staff
 - b. Proper and accurate temperature checks should be taken by medical personnel and recorded upon entry and exit and shared with AFSCME
 - c. Social distancing should be consistent and enforced across state facilities
 - d. Increased cleaning should be documented and follow the newest protocols on action; the latest updated disinfectants should be used
 - e. Alcohol-based Hand Sanitizer should be provided at all buildings
 - f. Everyone inside state facilities and everyone entering state facilities must be tested for COVID19 now.
4. Emergency Pay for essential employees in harm's way should be reinstated immediately.

In these troubled times we need to look out for each other. Our neighbors and friends are continuing to go to work for the State of Maryland under very dangerous conditions. These folks are keeping state facilities running, taking care of patients, supervising our youth, keeping all modes of transportation functioning, keeping public safety, investigating child abuse and much more.

Maryland is better when public servants are supported. We need them not only at work, but as part of the greater community. The undersigned demand that our neighbors are properly equipped, are properly compensated for their risk, and are able to come home to their communities healthy and safely.

In Solidarity,

AFSCME Maryland, Union Baptist Church, Food & Water Action, Public Justice Center, ACLU of Maryland, Catholic Community of St Anthony of Padua, St Dominic and Most Precious Blood, Out for Justice Inc, Maryland Prisoners' Rights Coalition, BRIDGE MARYLAND, INC., Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP), Jews United For Justice (JUFJ), Maryland Sierra Club, Friends and Family Support Group at C.T.Perkins Hospital Center, CASA, No Boundaries Coalition, United Workers, Fair Development Roundtable, Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church, Baltimore Women United

