ROBERT E. MERSKI, MEMBER 2ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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House of Representatives COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

February 16, 2021

COMMITTEES

GAME & FISHERIES
GAMING OVERSIGHT
INSURANCE
URBAN AFFAIRS

The Honorable Tom Wolf Governor of Pennsylvania 225 Main Capitol Building Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

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

Dear Governor Wolf and Acting Secretary Beam,

In an article by Daveen Rae Kurutz in the Beaver County Times on February 10, 2021 and distributed on the digital platforms of Gannett newspapers across Pennsylvania, it was reported that the COVID 19 vaccine distribution is being administered across the Commonwealth unequally, with three counties representing 21% of the population getting over one-third of the entire supply to date. In analyzing the data on the Pennsylvania Department of Health website as reported on February 10, 2021, the state's records show that Erie County is not getting a share of the vaccine from the state in proportion to its population. Erie County comprises 2.1% of the state's population, but our vaccine allotment has only been 1.7% of the state's total disbursement to date. We write to you to respectfully request additional vaccines for Erie County and a commitment to ensure equity in the distribution of the vaccine for COVID-19.

We understand that demand for the vaccine is extremely high, and we understand that you have a monumental task in managing the rollout of the COVID-19 statewide. Erie County, while farthest geographically from Harrisburg, should not and can not be given the short shrift in its vaccine allocation. We have assurances from our three major local providers, AHN Saint Vincent, LECOM Health, and UPMC Hamot, that they have the capacity to handle the distribution of additional vaccine. As representatives of the people of Erie County, we urge you to ensure that Erie County is getting its fair share of COVID-19 vaccines. We

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believe that, working together, we can develop a strategy to achieve equity and assure that Erie County is given its fair share of the state's vaccine disbursement.

We thank you in advance for any consideration that you give to this request.

Sincerely,

Patrick f. Harling

Patrick J. Harkins, 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative District

Ryan A. Bizzarro, 3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District

R-A. Bin

Bradley T. Roae, 6<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Brad Roae

Robert E. Murski

Robert E. Merski 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

Curtis G. Sonney, 4<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Parke Wentling, 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Tarke Wentle