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JIM DURKIN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 82ND DISTRICT
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

August 26, 2021

Governor J.B. Pritzker
207 State House
Springfield, Il 62706

Governor Pritzker,

When your experts told you to lift your mask mandate back in May of this year, I too was ready for the pandemic to be over. When you started running election commercials declaring 'mission accomplished', I too was hopeful that the worst was behind us. I thought of all the residents of our state and country who lost their lives during the last year and a half, especially our heroes in the LaSalle Veterans' Home, and prayed for them and their loved ones.

But when your commercial buy changed, now touting your words from over a year ago that you 'would put the full weight of the state behind the pandemic response', I remembered the 18 months of your go-it-alone attitude. This past year, you ran the length of the field with mandates and executive orders without the General Assembly.

That is why your phone call last night asking for suggestions on how to get this new wave of the pandemic under control was so unexpected. I would apologize for thinking you were being insincere with that call asking my advice, but immediately after hanging up, I received a breaking news update from the Chicago Sun-Times that you had, once again, laid out your plan without input.

You are willing to negotiate with your biggest supporters, the public sector unions, on the pandemic response, but still will not listen to the General Assembly or the residents of Illinois most impacted by your actions. I will reiterate my plea on our call yesterday to please make your experts available to the General Assembly so that we can examine their data and plans, review the results of your many previous mandates and together plot a course of action that will work. You have the authority to call for a Special Session of both Chambers to address this very critical issue, and I am imploring you to do so immediately.

Additionally, instead of wasting taxpayer dollars on secret lotteries and giveaways, direct that money to buying KN95 masks for children in schools that still cannot receive the vaccine. That would lift a financial burden on families while also providing real, tangible results.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Durkin', written in a cursive style.

Jim Durkin
House Republican Leader
82nd District

P.S. Your administration is still stalling our requests to receive documents about your Administration's failures at the LaSalle Veterans' Home. The sooner those documents are turned over, the General Assembly can begin a thorough review of the repeated shortcomings that led to the deaths of 36 veterans and make the necessary adjustments to the state's laws to ensure that history does not repeat itself.