



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

March 17, 2020

Office of Governor Ned Lamont
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont,

We are writing to you today regarding the Executive Order 7D issued yesterday afternoon, March 16, 2020.

We are concerned about the impact on our communities as a result of your mandated business closings and limits on operations.

While we understand the importance of social distancing and efforts to flatten the curve of potentially infected individuals across Connecticut, this executive order raises very concerning questions. We are fearful that this will generate unnecessary hysteria and a false expectation that our state government will be able to restore these businesses and their employee's losses. Can you please provide detailed responses to these concerns so we can pass them on to our constituents?

Simply put, how are businesses are supposed to survive being closed for a minimum of 45 days?

Is there a plan to compensate these business owners and/or their affected employees?

How long is it taking to process unemployment claims? (If someone files today, when can they expect their first check?) The CTDOL website says unemployment is on a case by case basis, can you explain what does that mean? Who is not eligible?

For those working in the restaurant industry that rely on their tips for food can they now apply for SNAP and how long will that take?

How much relief are we expecting from the federal government? Will the relief be enough to cover the financial impact of the mandated closures?

What type of relief is it? Are these grants or loans? Who will be eligible? What is the timeline for the relief provided?

We urge you and your team to thoroughly contemplate the long-term ramifications of this order, and anxiously await your response.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rob Sampson in blue ink.

Rob Sampson
State Senator
16th District

Handwritten signature of Gale Mastrofrancesco in blue ink.

Gale Mastrofrancesco
State Representative
80th District