



# NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

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April 9, 2020

The Honorable Pete Ricketts  
Nebraska State Capitol  
PO Box 94848  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

Dear Governor Ricketts,

Our union represents over 8,000 State of Nebraska employees. These hardworking Nebraskans are on the front lines of the battle against COVID-19. Our members are proud to ensure their neighbors have access to essential services during this most critical time. Our members who process unemployment benefits, economic assistance requests, provide care to the most vulnerable in our 24 hour facilities, and keep our roads open understand the vital importance of their jobs.

While our members understand the critical nature of their duties, they must be protected in order to continue providing the essential services that Nebraskans need. A disturbing number of state employees are still being required to report to offices and work locations even though they are capable of working from home. This is in direct contrast with your "stay home, stay healthy" message.

Further, many local offices such as DMV, DHHS, and Labor are still open to the public. While the services provided at these offices are important, there is no reason that these services can't be provided over the phone, or delayed until the crisis passes. Encouraging the public to travel in person to a local office for service puts us all at unnecessary risk and will extend this crisis to more Nebraska families and communities.

Our members who must report to work will continue to do so proudly to support their fellow Nebraskans. We believe any employee who needs to report in person to work should receive an immediate \$2.00/hour shift differential as hazard pay until this emergency passes. This is a small ask for the front-line workers who are putting their lives on the line to deliver critical services to our state.

We call on you to keep us all safe and recognize the tireless and selfless efforts of our public servants. First, all state employees who can work from home should be sent home to work immediately. Second, all local offices should be closed for face-to-face interaction with the public. Third, state employees who must report to work should receive a \$2.00/hour shift differential immediately.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Deb Strudl in black ink.

Deb Strudl  
Chairperson - NAPE/AFSCME  
DHHS - CFS/APS

Handwritten signature of Justin Hubly in black ink.

Justin Hubly  
Executive Director

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