

REP. JERAMEY ANDERSON
Mississippi's 110th House District
MOSS POINT

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Mississippi State Legislature House of Representatives

July 9, 2020

Gov. Tate Reeves
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 24355
Jackson, MS 39225
[ELECTRONICALLY DELIVERED]

Governor Reeves,

I'm writing to urge you to issue an executive order to require people to wear masks at businesses, bars, restaurants, and other public places where large numbers of people are apt to congregate. Right now, we have only two weapons to stop the spread of the COVID-19: masks and social distancing. Mississippi is in danger of overwhelming its health care system with cases of COVID-19. We must do everything in our power to try to prevent that from happening. Every day we wait to act will make preventing our health care systems from being overwhelmed that much harder or impossible.

Most other countries have done a far better job of containing the virus than the United States, many of them by strictly enforcing masks mandates, shelter in place, and social distancing orders.

I know you are considering a mask mandate and other measures. The Gaming Commission is already requiring masks to be worn inside casinos. We should expand that requirement to all businesses. I also urge you to have an all-out public relations blitz against the false narrative that requiring masks endangers some people's health or that they infringe on their freedom.

Numerous doctors and health professionals have said masks do not significantly inhibit breathing and pose no further risk to those who suffer from asthma or other respiratory problems. We cannot let people who say otherwise, while providing no scientific evidence, dominate the conversation. A mask mandate endangers freedom no more than the requirement to wear seatbelts, which has saved countless lives.

I promise to fully support you in such an effort. I hope you do what I and many others consider to be the best chance to slow this latest spike in COVID-19 and an effort that could avoid another statewide lockdown. Please require that masks be worn in and double down on enforcing social distancing.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeramey D. Anderson".

Representative Jeramey Anderson
Mississippi's 110th House District

JDA/ph/jr

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