



**HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

BUILDING 1, ROOM M-260  
1900 KANAWHA BLVD., EAST  
CHARLESTON, WV 25305-0470  
PHONE (304) 340-3240

September 15, 2020

**via email**

The Honorable James C. Justice  
Governor  
State of West Virginia  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Justice,

As you are aware, Monongalia County finds itself deep within the red zone. The subsequent bar closures, coupled with our local economy's dependence on the student population, has many business owners hurting in Monongalia County. Additionally, many of them are hurting in a unique way, as bars remain open in West Virginia's other 54 Counties.

I agree with measures that have been taken in mitigating transmission, and I do not write to oppose them. I do write to you today however, to ask that our uniquely affected businesses be indemnified in their time of greatest need.

I have been tremendously supportive of, and appreciative of, the CARES Act funds that you put towards small business grants. With that in mind, I respectfully request that you allocate an additional \$25 million in small business grants for Monongalia County bars and other industries that have been affected. While this amount may seem high at first glance, I believe it is fair and proportional based upon tax collection figures from our county.

Thank you so much for your consideration in this matter.

Delegate John Williams, 51st District