



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR

April 16, 2020

The Honorable Harvey Peeler
South Carolina Senate
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

The Honorable James H. "Jay" Lucas
South Carolina House of Representatives
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Gentlemen:

I am writing to offer a solution that will prevent a state government shutdown while protecting the health and safety of the members of the General Assembly and their staff.

As you are aware, the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) projects that the number of confirmed COVID 19 cases and fatalities in our state will peak around May 1st and begin a gradual decline afterward.

Returning before May 14th for session, even briefly, could place the health and safety of your members at an elevated risk for exposure to the virus. However, I believe - and hope - that by late June that risk will have diminished to the extent that businesses and activities in our state may be safely resumed and conducted using personal safety precautions.

To that end, I will call the General Assembly into session before the end of this fiscal year, on a date and time of your choosing, for the purpose of passing a continuing resolution for the operation of state government.

I look forward to working together to accelerate South Carolina's economic restart.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Henry McMaster".

Henry McMaster