



## Washington State Senate

**Olympia Address:**  
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**Senator John Braun**  
20th Legislative District

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January 5, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Governor  
State of Washington  
Olympia WA 98504

Dear Governor Inslee:

As the letter yesterday documented, my caucus—as per the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4)—did not approve of the extension of the statutory waivers and suspensions ordered in Proclamations 20-58 and 20-63.

The immediate cause of our caucus' disapproval is your continued shutdown of restaurants and gyms without a firm basis in data and science.

Governor, our constituents are in agony. Life savings are being lost. Vulnerable workers are thrown out of jobs. Many of them have had ongoing challenges obtaining unemployment benefits that are due to them.

Looking at this through an equity lens, many of those thrown out of work are not from the prosperous central Puget Sound. They have not had the comfort of a state job, with state benefits and a state retirement to cushion the blow.

Moms and dads have been hit particularly hard as schools are closed with no state leadership effectively reassuring local districts that science supports much of their reopening. Without adequate resources even parents with jobs have been forced to stay home to educate their kids.

Our constituents have not been able to buy food, medicine or pay their rent or mortgage. Many have used every last drop of savings. Years of life efforts have been destroyed. Dreams have been shattered.

We trust in data and science. But we also trust in our people. We believe that if the proper precautions are communicated to them, they will overwhelmingly follow the recommendations. This will allow vitally needed jobs to come back.



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Governor, we are interested in a collaborative working relationship. But we will be looking very skeptically at the renewal of each of your proclamations going forward until we see a plan for reopening restaurants and gyms that is based firmly in data and science.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Braun", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Senator John Braun  
Senate Republican Leader  
20th Legislative District