
From: Fortunato, Sen. Phil
Sent: Saturday, May 2, 2020 12:49 PM
To: @SRC Members; @HRC Members; @SDC Members; @HDC Members
Subject: Second Request: Call for a Legislative Special Session

Washington State Legislators,

This is a second request for your consideration to call ourselves into Legislative Special Session. Many of us have expressed frustration with the fact that as representatives of the people in our districts, we are reduced to writing letters to Santa and getting the same response, nothing. Our constituents deserve to have us weigh in on the decisions being made that are bankrupting businesses and creating an estimated \$800,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000 hole per week in the budget. Funding for the most vulnerable and education are the most at risk. Our cities and counties are going to have to have massive layoffs and may teeter on the verge of bankruptcy.

Please review the previously sent email below and consider voting "YES":

As you know, Article II, Section 12 of the state constitution authorizes the legislature to meet in special session if two-thirds of the members in each chamber agree. When the legislature seeks to call itself into a special session, the state constitution requires a resolution, which may be "executed either while the legislature is in session or during any interim between sessions in accordance with such procedures as the legislature may provide by law or resolution." Wash. Const. art. II, sec. 12(2). **The resolution convening the legislature "shall specify a purpose or purposes for the convening of a special session, and any special session convened by the resolution shall consider only measures germane to the purpose or purposes expressed in the resolution," unless by resolution adopted *during the session by a two-thirds vote in each chamber an additional purpose is expressed.***

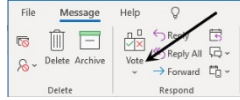
Many of us think the time is right for the legislature to call a special session in order to deal with the economic impacts sweeping across Washington under Governor Inslee's emergency proclamations.

The legislature must serve as a check against the executive branch. While many agree with the Governor's actions in this time of crisis, it is imperative for the legislature to exercise its authority as the policymaking branch of state government. Many of us have concerns that governor has completely shut down businesses, placing many on the brink of ruin. We are confident that legislators can work together to offer better ideas that will protect public health and preserve the economy. Last week, House and Senate Republican Caucuses outlined their plan and we would encourage the Democratic Caucus to do the same, so we can have an active discussion on getting Washington back to work.

It is well within our power to ensure that the legislature can safely gather to do the people's business. The state constitution gives each chamber the responsibility of establishing its own rules and procedures as outlined in Article II, Section 9. This means we might need to embrace videoconferencing or other technology to help us in our proceedings and I have asked the AG for an opinion on this issue (see attached). The legislature should be willing to look at all options during this unprecedented time because the hardworking people of Washington deserve our best efforts.

Washingtonians have made tremendous sacrifices to flatten the curve of the COVID-19 pandemic. But allowing unconstrained unilateral decisions by Governor Inslee for the foreseeable future is not in the best of interest of the citizens we serve. The economic and financial impacts to individuals, families, small businesses and the state’s budget are approaching unsustainable levels. As legislators, we can represent our constituents and better influence the governor’s decisions during a special session. Working together to provide legislative oversight to the decision-making process, we can set Washington on a better path toward improved health and a return to economic security.

There is a Voting option in
Please indicate your



Outlook
acceptance, rejection or maybe of this proposal

Senator Phil

Senator Phil Fortunato

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