



## Senate of Pennsylvania

April 28, 2020

The Honorable Eugene DePasquale  
Office of the Auditor General  
613 North Street, Room 229  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018

Dear Auditor General DePasquale:

The COVID-19 public health emergency has impacted every area of our Commonwealth. During this unprecedented time, we have read of your urging of banks licensed in Pennsylvania to help small businesses facing financial challenges, citing the urgent need to save jobs. You concluded by stating: “These extraordinary times call for immediate action. I hope financial institutions across Pennsylvania will do whatever is necessary to help preserve millions of jobs – their customers are counting on them.” ([April 3, 2020 press release](#))

We applaud your advocacy and sense of urgency. Given recent developments, we formally request you take this proclaimed passion for protecting Pennsylvania taxpayers during COVID-19 and your constitutional obligation as Pennsylvania’s fiscal watchdog, to immediately begin an audit of the Department of Community and Economic Development.

We ask that this audit be expedited to shine a light on the process that they used to determine what deemed a business ‘essential’ or ‘non-essential’ as well as providing a complete listing of all businesses that were granted waivers. The lack of predictability and accountability that Pennsylvania employers and employees have experienced has caused unnecessary anguish during an already uncertain and unnerving time.

Throughout your tenure as Auditor General, you have said that it is crucial to prioritize bringing transparency and accountability to policies and procedures at every level of government and every type of industry. All Pennsylvanians should understand the process and determining factors that allowed some businesses to open and forced others to close. You shared in your [October 25, 2016 press release](#) that “transparency means accountability”. We hope that you prioritize accountability and transparency during this public health emergency, when Pennsylvanians need answers.

We thank you for your efforts and look forward to your response.

The Honorable Eugene DePasquale  
April 28, 2020  
Page 2

Sincerely,



Senator Tom Killion



Senator Mike Regan



Joe Scarnati  
President Pro Tempore



Jake Corman  
Majority Leader



Senator David Argall



Senator Dave Arnold



Senator Ryan Aument



Senator Lisa Baker



Senator Camera Bartolotta



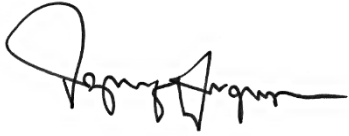
Senator Michele Brooks



Senator Pat Browne



Senator John DiSanto



Senator John Gordner



Senator Scott Hutchinson



Senator Wayne Langerholc



Senator Dan Laughlin



Senator Scott Martin



Senator Doug Mastriano



Senator Bob Mensch



Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill



Senator Joe Pittman



Senator Mario Scavello



Senator Pat Stefano



Senator Robert Tomlinson



Senator Elder Vogel



Senator Judy Ward

The Honorable Eugene DePasquale  
April 28, 2020  
Page 4

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Ward". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Senator Kim Ward

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gene Yaw". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Senator Gene Yaw