



MassCOSH

April 28, 2020

His Excellency Charles D. Baker  
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
State House, RM 280  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker,

**We are writing to urge you to expand your Reopening Advisory Board immediately to include participation of members that represent workers and unions and that can provide occupational health and safety expertise.**

Today is Workers' Memorial Day. At noon MassCOSH hosted a commemoration of the day at which we read the names of all 69 workers who died as a result of workplace injury and illness in 2019 in Massachusetts. We also honored the almost 2,500 workers we know of that have become ill with COVID-19, and the six who have died from the virus thus far, likely as a result of workplace exposures. While we were coordinating this powerful event, we learned that you announced a Reopening Advisory Board charged with advising the administration on strategies to reopen the economy that lacks representation from workers and unions and does not include any members that could provide occupational health and safety expertise.

This pandemic has created an unprecedented worker health and safety crisis. It will be critically important to carefully phase-in the reopening of the economy and involve workers and employers during each phase to maximize the safety, health and financial well-being of everyone. At a minimum, a safe, just return to work will need to include effective and stringent health and safety protections, backed by robust enforcement, and designed with meaningful input by workers and unions. It will also need a planned and detailed system of screening, testing and epidemiological surveillance.

MassCOSH is more than happy to make recommendations for potential members to ensure that the Reopening Advisory Board has the expertise and voices needed to meet these goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jodi Sugerman-Brozan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jodi Sugerman-Brozan  
Executive Director, Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health

cc: Steven Tolman, President, MA AFL-CIO