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March 22, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of the State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

RE: Consistent Designation of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers Recommendations

Dear Governor DeSantis,

Thank you for your continued leadership as we seek to stay unified in our mutual effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and secure Florida's future. I appreciate your team's request for input from the Florida Chamber of Commerce regarding appropriate governmental responses to this novel threat to our citizenry, economy and way of life. The Florida Chamber stands ready to continue partnering with your Administration in whatever ways are necessary over the coming weeks and months. One of the most frequent calls the Chamber is receiving from employers is the question of what Florida will consider "essential services" should we find ourselves in that situation. This letter shares a well thought out, consensus view on how Florida might approach this, again, if the need arises.

To be certain, stopping the spread of this disease and its impact on Floridians remains our shared and foremost priority. However, as we address this unprecedented and constantly changing situation, we must be mindful that the policies intended to protect human health and curb the pandemic do not also cause an even worse effect on the economy and jobs.

In my role as President and CEO of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, I have been in constant communication with the leaders of Florida's business community as well as national business leaders due to my current position as Chairman of the National Association of State Chambers. Designation of which industries and services should be considered "essential" during a potential emergency halt in commerce has been a question for which I have sought extensive guidance. I have gathered input from companies of all size, scope and industry, as well as other stakeholders in order to best provide you with comprehensive guidance from the Florida business community's perspective.

Based on the substantial and diversified input I have received, I agree with the United States Chamber of Commerce that we need a national standard of "essential services" and I recommend, as a baseline, we consider the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's *Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response* dated March 19, 2020 and enclosed in this letter. Although I believe this list to be comprehensive in nature, **I request that you allow for as broad of an interpretation as possible for support personnel to ensure that these critical operations can maintain service.**

I believe that any potential, future order that does not list these industries as essential could leave the State of Florida and our citizens vulnerable and lead to a patchwork of inconsistent applications across Florida's 67 counties and 405 cities. I appreciate the ongoing conversations my team continues to have with your senior staff on potential governmental response to COVID-19, including on the essential critical infrastructure workers recommendations contained in the enclosed guidance.

Thank you for your leadership during this crucial time. The Florida Chamber of Commerce stands with you as we seek to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, focus on recovery efforts from its impact, and ensure we become an even more secure Florida when we emerge on the other side.

My best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Wilson
President and CEO

CC: Charles Caulkins, Chairman, Florida Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
Shane Strum, Chief of Staff, Executive Office of the Governor

Enclosure