



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

April 20, 2020

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 613, Printer's Number 1636.

These are unprecedented times, with no easy choices. My highest priority remains protecting the health and safety of all Pennsylvanians during this emergency. Because of our critical steps and sacrifices over the past month, we have slowed the spread of COVID-19, but we continue to have between 1,000 and 2,000 new cases a day.

This is not an easy decision, but it is the right course for Pennsylvania. Reopening tens of thousands of businesses too early will only increase the spread of the virus, place more lives at risk, increase the death tolls, and extend the length of the economic hardships created by the pandemic.

Instead, we need a measured and staggered approach to reopening the economy. This approach needs to include not only a decline in the spread of the virus, but also an integrated approach for how and when to open businesses and what additional measures are needed to ensure our businesses are safe and our health care system can support us. Although we are no longer seeing exponential growth in the new cases of the virus, the peak of COVID-19 cases has likely not been reached.

The next few weeks will be difficult for all Pennsylvanians – for health care workers, for families, for essential employees, for older Pennsylvanians and for business owners. We need to continue to bend the curve; we need to stay home. If we let go of this strategy too soon, all of our progress could be lost.

While we continue to take the difficult and critical steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, I recognize that we must look ahead. That is why I recently announced a set of standards we will use as part of a comprehensive strategy that first focuses on our public health, but also addresses the need to restore our economy.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from Senate Bill 613, Printer's Number 1636.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Wolf".

Tom Wolf
Governor