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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

March 2, 2021

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Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

I am writing regarding vaccine distribution in rural counties along the Northern Tier of our Commonwealth. I am specifically seeking information relative to why some counties are not receiving a proportional amount of vaccine as compared to other counties in the state.

When looking at publicly available data it is clear that certain counties remain far behind others in the receipt and distribution of vaccine. I have continually sought information as to why McKean and Potter counties are receiving significantly less vaccine than other neighboring rural counties. Looking closer at McKean County, the only hospital in the City of Bradford has not received any first dose vaccine since February 4th and at that time, they only received 100 doses!

The most recent data on the PA Department of Health website highlights the fact that 16.2% of our state population has been fully vaccinated. In McKean County that percentage is 11.5%. In Potter County that percentage drops to 8.1%. Cameron County fairs much better at 35.3% and Elk County with 31.3%. I'm certainly glad to see the increased percentage in Cameron and Elk but I'm still left wondering about McKean and Potter. Why the disparity?

I have requested additional information from your legislative liaison at the PA Department of Health but have received no response or even an acknowledgement on the matter. Our rural counties have an increased number of senior citizen residents who deserve the same access to vaccine as people in other counties in the state.

Further complicating matters, residents of New York State have been able to travel south and, in some cases, secure our extremely limited vaccine supply in Pennsylvania, while our residents are prohibited from securing vaccine in New York. This puts our residents at further disadvantage.

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Governor, we need you to get involved and fix this inequity. People in McKean and Potter counties deserve access to vaccine just like every other resident of the Commonwealth.

Will you help us?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin T. Causer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martin T. Causer

State Representative

67th Legislative District