March 30, 2020

Dear Governor Northam:

I applaud your efforts to combat the novel COVID-19 pandemic. I strongly believe that the Stay at Home order, issued effective immediately, will help to mitigate the spread of the virus, ultimately lowering the risk of exposure for our dedicated frontline workers, especially grocery store workers. Their role in strengthening access to food and supplies is both essential and invaluable.

I have been in touch with United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 400, which represents workers at our Giant and Safeway stores, about measures that would enhance social distancing practices and workplace safety. I ask that you include these provisions as a part of an Executive Order to ensure the health and safety of grocery workers, and, by extension, their customers and the public throughout the entirety of the state.

I request that an Executive Order:

- Classifies grocery store workers and food distributors as essential personnel;
- Ensures that such persons can access the benefits and protections afforded to others performing essential work, such as first-responders;
- Ensures access for grocery store workers to childcare, including on evenings and weekends

I further request an Executive Order instructing the Virginia Department of Health to give further guidance to grocery store management that includes:

- Requiring employers to provide adequate Personal Protective Equipment to workers including gloves, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, and masks;
- Enhancing sanitization practices, including the mandatory wiping down of grocery carts, self-scan screens, and credit card touch screens;
- Providing Virginia Department of Health staff and law enforcement the authority to enforce such measures as well as the 10-patron limit, to the extent possible.

I hope that you will strongly consider this request.

Sincerely,

Delegate Jennifer Carroll Foy
Member, House of Delegates
2nd District