



March 17, 2020

Governor Larry Hogan
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland
21401-1925

Dear Governor Hogan,

The terrible COVID-19 pandemic is disrupting the lives of Americans across the nation, but falling with special severity on low-income workers. According to the 2018 Federal Reserve Board *Survey of Household Economics and Decision Making*, four in ten Americans lack the savings to cover an unexpected \$400 expense – yet millions of these workers stand to lose much more as COVID-19 shuts shops and restaurants, darkens casinos and stadiums, grounds airplanes, and closes offices. The pandemic justifies our farsighted decision to pass the Healthy Working Families Act, guaranteeing most Maryland workers earned sick leave. However, some workers are excluded from coverage, and countless state residents who are not ill are facing an economic crisis due to emergency closures. As Catholic Christians, we know we will be judged on whether we have fed, clothed and sheltered “one of these least brothers of mine” (Matthew 25:31-46). Therefore, we urge the State of Maryland to adopt the following emergency measures:

- Employees covered by the Healthy Working Families Act (HWFA), Maryland’s earned sick leave law, should be allowed to use their earned leave where they cannot work due to school closures, business closure, or because they or a family member has been quarantined by a public health official.
- Coverage under the HWFA should extend to all temporary workers.
- All workers whose jobs require significant public contact and those working with vulnerable populations should be immediately covered.
- The waiting period to use sick leave under the HWFA should be eliminated, and the maximum number of days employees can use leave should be extended to 14 days.

We ask that you take action immediately to assist those in need and prayerfully consider additional means to make whole the men and women of Maryland suffering in this time of crisis.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Ty Hullinger".

Rev. Ty S. Hullinger, Pastor
Catholic Community of St Anthony of Padua, St Dominic & Most Precious Blood (Baltimore, MD)