



**Assemblyman Gerry Scharfenberger**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, State of New Jersey**

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Elizabeth Maher Muoio  
Treasurer, State of New Jersey  
Department of the Treasury  
State of New Jersey  
P.O. Box 002  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Treasurer Maher Muoio:

The COVID-19 outbreak has undoubtedly caught New Jersey and millions of people across the country by surprise. Just 45 days ago our country was enjoying the best economy potentially in our nation's history with record low unemployment, record high wage growth and consumer confidence at all-time highs.

The challenge we now face has spared no New Jerseyan; a tragic public health crisis only compounded by a devastating economic blow to middle class families. The economic downturn has hit my constituents in Monmouth County particularly hard. Thousands of residents in my district alone have been left unemployed and the huge backlog of claims at the Department of Labor has put them in a great financial hardship.

My staff and I have been working seven days a week yielding countless phone calls and emails from residents who have lost either all or part of their income due to this public health crisis. They have sought state unemployment insurance, calling on a daily basis only to be told to be patient and they may have to wait another 4 to 6 weeks. This is unacceptable and as leaders in this State, we cannot allow families to struggle to meet the basic necessities of life. We must show that we stand with them, especially in these hard times.

With that I ask that you withhold my salary, effective April 20th, 2020, until every one of my constituents' state unemployment claims has been fulfilled. I cannot, in good conscience, continue to accept a salary while these issues remain unresolved and my constituents struggle through no fault of their own.

The challenges of this crisis may seem overwhelming, however it is incumbent upon us to deliver for the people of New Jersey when they need us the most. That's why I ran for this office in the first place, and I know that's why our public servants in state and local governments are working overtime to ensure that no New Jersey family is left behind.

Sincerely,

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

Gerry Scharfenberger  
Assemblyman, 13th Legislative District

cc:  
The Honorable Phil Murphy, Governor  
The Honorable Craig Coughlin, General Assembly Speaker  
The Honorable Jon Bramnick, Assembly Minority Leader  
Ms. Dana Burley, Clerk of the New Jersey General Assembly