

## Legislative Director Report: North Cook County/Lake County

Gerri Songer – June-July 2020

### Tuesday, June 30, 2020

Attended *Senator Julie Morrison Virtual Pizza Party*. A \$20 gift card was donated in the Local's name to a food bank.

**\$5B - \$6B deficit in the budget** - The State will borrow from the Federal Government at a low interest rate to cover this deficit. Funding will provide for following services (not a complete list):

- COVID Relief
- Small Business grants
- Rent/mortgage assistance
- \$30M for mental health and substance abuse
- Insurance coverage for health care
- Medicaid for undocumented people who are 60 and over
- Agencies are left with flat budgets
- DCF 20% increase in budget for front line workers and intact families
- Department of public health will get some funding
- Community Care 50/50 match with federal government provides help at home (housekeeping, personal care, grocery shopping)

**Vote-by-Mail Bill** (expands voting by mail)

- [16 and 17 year olds can train and become election judges](#)
- 3 election judges will look at every ballot

**Return to school** - guidelines leave schools open for decision-making  
Maximum of 50 students in a single setting

**Early Vote!!** This is especially important given the current circumstances.

### **National Convention**

Biden will choose a female running mate.

### **Fair Tax**

Polls indicate 'slightly favorable' - not a good sign.

Sen. Morrison supports the Fair Tax

### Thursday, July 9, 2020

Attended *Forward Together - Hoffman Estates Virtual Town Hall Meeting*. Community members gathered together online to openly discuss issues of justice in policing, racial concerns, and diversity and inclusion in our community, as well as the impact of the Black Lives Matter movement in Hoffman Estates. Discussions will continue with dates yet to be determined.

Moderated by Reverend Larry Bullock, MPA, MDiv., senior pastor at Living Faith Cathedral Worship Center in Palatine.

**Panelists:**

Mayor William D. McLeod

US Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL 8th Congressional District)

IL Representative Fred Crespo (44th District)

Pastor Freddie Rogers (Destiny Church)

Rabbi Taron Tachman (Beth Tikvah Congregation)

Father Mike Scherschel (St. Hubert Parish)

Police Chief Ted Bos

Assistant Police Chief Kathryn Cawley

Fire Chief Pat Fortunato

Dr. Monica Saavedra, PsyD. (Director of Health and Human Services)

Dr. Lauren Nichols, PsyD. (Health and Human Services)

Pearl Henderson (Chair, Cultural Awareness Commission)

Thakar Basati (Sikh Community)

Tim McGowan (Palatine resident, Black Lives Matter activist)

Nazeen Hashmi (Muslim Community)

Maswamba Musikiwamba (African Community)

**Tuesday, July 15, 2020**

Attended *Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi's Tele-Town Hall* to discuss the state of our response to the COVID-19 crisis, as well as a range of other issues. Congressman Krishnamoorthi urges people to take the COVID-19 epidemic seriously and discourages the politicizing of this crisis. He has been working diligently to help ensure our frontline health care workers have the mental health resources they need as they continue to confront the devastating cost of this pandemic on a daily basis.

The Congressman wrote the bipartisan *Coronavirus Health Care Worker Wellness Act*, which would authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to make grants to health care providers who wish to establish or expand programs dedicated to promoting the mental wellness of their workers on the front lines of COVID-19. This bill would also authorize the HHS to commission a comprehensive, multi-year study on health care worker mental health and burnout, including an assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. He also published an op-ed in the Daily Herald (<https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20200714/congress-must-address-mental-health-needs-of-medical-workers>) discussing the importance of this bill and

addressing the unique mental health challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused for our frontline health care workers.

\*Congressman Krishnamoorthi considers teachers to be essential workers.

The Congressman emphasized that we must:

- Wear a mask
- Practice good hygiene
- Participate in social distancing

### **Thursday, July 16, 2020**

Communicated with *Representative Jonathan Carroll* via email regarding membership concern over an email distributed by his office.

Representative Carroll's email addressed E-Learning and his concern that its performance fell below expectations. Membership pointed out that educators responded to the COVID-19 crisis by following spring ISBE guidelines that did not allow educators to introduce new material, and we committed to equity education, requiring that no child's grades would reflect failure.

Representative Carroll kindly responded to membership concern by issuing the following statement:

FROM:

**Jonathan Carroll** | Representative  
State of Illinois | 57th District

"In addition to my job as a legislator, I'm a certified Special Education teacher and currently own a practice focusing on ADHD/Executive Functioning coaching as well as Special Education advocacy. I'm also a parent.

The COVID-19 times have created many challenges with education being at the top of the list. My point wasn't to be malicious, it was meant to be constructive. Based on conversations I've had with other parents, teachers and administrators, the consensus was that E-Learning from the spring was a challenge.

Now it is up to all us including ISBE, school administrators, teachers and parents to come together and do what's best for our children. We have the best teachers in the country, and I know we'll do what's best for all our children."