



**Columbus, OH (April 27, 2020)** – On behalf of our six organizations, and the thousands of Ohio businesses they collectively represent, the following statement was released today regarding the plan for Ohio's economy to begin reopening May 1, 2020.

"Today's announcement on the reopening strategies of Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted are responsible first steps to Ohio getting back to business. For many businesses in Ohio, the staged reopening of commerce beginning May 1 through May 12 is a relief. We appreciate that the DeWine Administration listened to the business community as well as relevant experts in establishing the required safety protocols.

"It is vitally important to move forward and reopen safely. Ohio employers truly care about and rely on a healthy workforce. Just as important is a consumer base that feels they are safe when conducting business. Building this confidence in both the workforce and those consumers supporting our industries will be difficult, but companies are ready to take on the responsibility both carefully and methodically. The businesses of Ohio are prepared for and capable of conducting the five safety protocols. Of the businesses remaining open during the COVID-19 crisis, many have already successfully implemented most, if not all, of these protocols.

"With roughly seventeen to twenty-two percent of Ohio's workforce filing for unemployment, Ohio businesses, especially many smaller entities, and their employees are really hurting during this pandemic crisis. As we approach the month of May, many key industries will remain closed, fighting for their very survival and we cannot leave them behind. We appreciate the open dialogue with Ohio's leaders as we arrived at this point and certainly look forward to continuing to work to bring our state's economy back to full force as soon as possible."

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