



# IOWA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

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March 20, 2020

Honorable Kim Reynolds  
Governor State of Iowa  
1007 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds:

On behalf of approximately 270 Iowa Newspaper Association members, we want to thank you for your response to one of the worst pandemics our country has experienced in more than a century. These are unfortunate times and we appreciate the advice, guidance and composure you have displayed.

As you know, our members work closely with government officials to keep the public accurately informed during times of emergency. We would like that critical work to continue unabated during the COVID-19 crisis. Should a shelter in place order become necessary as it has in other states, we ask that you to further clarify in any official communication that the news media is considered an essential business.

We would appreciate this clarification that media and organizations including newspapers are essential businesses to remain open during the COVID-19 crisis in order to continue to inform the public about their health, safety and welfare.

Freedom of movement for credentialed reporters and those delivering newspapers is essential to our ability to keep the public apprised of rapidly evolving developments during this pandemic. Our members are cognizant of the need to protect themselves and are committed to following the protocols recommended by the CDC regarding social distancing and hygiene.

We look forward to working with your office on this issue as our members strive to serve the citizens of Iowa during this unprecedented time. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Susan Patterson Plank and Karen Spurgeon.

Susan Patterson Plank  
Iowa Newspaper Association  
Executive Director

Karen Spurgeon  
Iowa Newspaper Association  
Board President