



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

November 10, 2020

Governor Ned Lamont
Office of the Governor
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont:

In light of today's release of consensus revenue figures as well as the comments made by House Speaker-designate Matt Ritter, we are asking that you immediately call a meeting of all legislative leaders to begin addressing the state budget and how we as a state will mitigate projected deficits.

Today we heard House Democrats say that nothing regarding the budget can be decided until April 2021. At the same time, they called for increasing borrowing, ignoring your promised "debt diet." It is important to invest in our state, but putting more expenses on the state's credit card, and therefore on the backs of our children, has not been a successful strategy for our state in the past. Especially as we are already pushing up against our debt limit, this proposal is concerning. We need to meet to address the budget and also to discuss the reality of how close we are to the bonding limit already. Because the Finance Committee has yet to adopt updated revenue estimates in over a year, well before the pandemic, the state is ignoring what we know to be the reality of the current situation and putting us dangerously close to the bond limit. This must be discussed.

The problem with waiting until April to take any action on the state budget is that it allows problems to worsen to the point where we will be left with few choices when it comes to balancing the budget. We have seen that play out before. Not doing anything, and instead counting on the rainy day fund or borrowing to fill budget holes creates a self-fulfilling prophesy that we will have no other options or tools available to us to stop the pain and keep our state finances afloat.

We must face the pandemic head on and that includes prioritizing funding for core needs such as mental health care, substance abuse treatment, protection for seniors, education, job creation, and basic safety net supports. To best ensure that funding is properly prioritized for these needs, we cannot put off addressing our budget issues and shortfalls.

We ask that you call all leaders together from all four caucuses to begin this important dialogue as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Senator Kevin Kelly
Senate Republican Leader-Elect


Representative Vincent Candelora
House Republican Leader - Elect


Senator Paul Formica
Senate Republican Leader Pro Tempore-Elect