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Senate of Pennsylvania

March 12, 2020

The Honorable Rachel Levine
Secretary – Department of Health
Health & Welfare Building
625 Forster Street, Room 806A
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108

Dear Secretary Levine,

It has come to my attention that there are mobile hospitals available in the Commonwealth, including one stored in Meadville, near Erie County, which is in close proximity to two major urban hospitals that could see a spike in COVID-19 cases in the coming weeks and months.

I believe these extra beds provided by these mobile units will be necessary to evaluate and treat those who may be affected by this virus. As such, I am writing to request that these mobile hospitals, especially the one that serves my district, be immediately deployed to ensure that our hospitals can handle any and all new cases that might come our way.

The set-up of these temporary structures will certainly take several days and will require four to six workers to deploy. Therefore, I believe the time to act is now. As you know, by seeing what is happening in other countries, the spread of this virus will likely intensify and it is incumbent that the Commonwealth take every step possible to be prepared to protect our citizens.

We are coordinating with local Erie emergency management officials to support this precautionary step and your support will certainly expedite this process.

If this pandemic is contained and the extra beds are no longer necessary, then at the very least it is a good exercise to prepare for any future issues that rise to the crisis level.

Sincerely,

Dan Laughlin
State Senator
49th Senatorial District

CC: Ferinando Mirarchi, D.O.