

A banner with a blue border containing the text "Oklahoma House Democratic Caucus" in a large, blue, serif font. In the background, there is a faint image of the Oklahoma State Capitol building and the motto "Labor Omnia Vincit" in a smaller font.

Oklahoma House Democratic Caucus

Oklahoma House of Representatives

Communications & Public Affairs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Pittman's Remarks on State Re-opening Amid COVID-19

State Representative Ajay Pittman, House District 99- (D) OKC shares her concerns on the possible impact that the state's re-opening date could have in Oklahoma City.

Today we received word that the Governor planned to re-open the state not long before his press conference to the Public. We did not receive the plan that his office created until after the press conference began.

It is disappointing, not just as leaders but as residents of this state, that we were not informed or equipped with this plan of implementation beginning May 1, with more advanced notice, so that we could adequately communicate with our constituents.

“We are really concerned about the reopening of the state because the repercussions could prove to become worse for those in poverty and could increase the deaths rates of our most vulnerable populations,” said Pittman. “We must prioritize our first responders, and medical providers who face the health risks and testing challenges of managing additional sites.”

The Oklahoma State Health department has done a tremendous job in collaboration with our hospitals and medical facilities, in spite of hospitals closing in rural areas.

“We have local reports that there are several zip codes in my district that represent the worst healthiest in the entire state, and it’s right here in the heartland of 73104 among others, said Pittman.”

Oklahoma seems to fall behind the national rates in healthcare, so we are not certain that our state can handle a second wave of infections with the CoronaVirus among minorities and those who live in poverty.

“I know that our economy and so many working families are taking a financial hit, however lives are at stake. We want to take pressure off of our citizens struggling with unemployment , but if we compound the issues by expanding the risks, then we will not save money, lives or Jobs,”said Pittman

Medical statistics are showing the social distancing is beginning to work. We need to follow the CDC guidelines, because we still have no cure. Doctors and scientists have not created vaccines and my concern is the timeline for a cure to be approved and distributed. It will be people in poverty who will once again be forgotten and forsaken.

Pittman states, “The reality is that some have become detached to the harsh reality that Oklahoma citizens can not visit nursing homes, emergency rooms or attend funerals to pay their respects to those who have lost their lives to this pandemic.”

This is preventable if we believe what we are saying. “We are all in this together.”

We have almost 4 million Oklahoman’s that we need to protect from a resurgence of COVID -19

Because we do not have a plan to identify people who are carrying the virus but do not have symptoms. We do not have enough tests. We do not have enough PPE.

We should be focused on getting our educational systems running properly, and getting the unemployment benefits to those who qualify so that families can heal together, and work through times like these.

“I am calling on my community and the constituents of House District 99 to stay home and shelter in place.”

Thank you Mayor David Holt for your leadership on a local level to leave the “Shelter in Place” order for the City of Oklahoma City - Government!