

## EMAIL TEMPLATE TO YOUR GOVERNOR

PLEASE COPY AND PASTE IT AT <https://www.usa.gov/state-governor>

Dear Governor [INSERT NAME]

I am writing to ask that you designate all companies that comprise the passenger ground transportation industry in our state as essential businesses providing service 24/7/365. Eight of the first nine states to enact stay at home orders have explicitly declared our services to be essential businesses and the one other is unclear as it fails to address transportation companies at all.

Our industry is especially vital at this critical moment in the COVID-19 crisis. While the general public may only perceive us as their transportation safety net (i.e., a backup plan to their car and/or public transit), taxi, livery, non-emergency medical, paratransit, shuttle, bus, and other services provided are critical for a number of reasons, especially given the anticipated wave of “shelter in place” or “stay at home” orders and advisories. We help our communities in a number of essential ways, including:

- Our industry continues to provide paratransit and non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) to bring those with severe health issues to life-saving doctor appointments. Among these are daily or weekly trips to dialysis centers for people with kidney disease or chemotherapy treatment for cancer patients; the transportation of low-income citizens living in food deserts to grocery stores and pharmacies; transportation for those struggling with substance abuse and mental health issues to the care they require; and services for the disability community with our industry’s ample supply of wheelchair vehicles meeting ADA requirements.
- Instead of transporting special need students, schools are now depending on us to deliver subsidized meals to the homes of low-income children.
- Taxi and livery services are increasingly being called upon to offer food delivery from grocery stores and restaurants.
- Given the current trajectory of the virus, ambulance fleets could quickly be overrun with hospital trips. Our industry is needed to transport those patients who, while ill, do not require an ambulance.
- Larger vehicles such as shuttles and buses are already being used to ferry health care workers to the front lines of the coronavirus battle: our hospitals and healthcare facilities. These vehicles offer the ability to safely distance passengers per CDC-recommended guidelines.
- Airline and railroad crews continue to need our services as they move goods and people across the country.
- As transit services are reduced, our industry helps meet our citizens’ unscheduled transportation needs.

A disruption in our services will have a serious compounding effect both on our state’s economy and the well-being of our citizens, many of who are low-income, elderly or requiring greater support systems than those with their own modes of transportation or family support networks.

In order for us to fight this invisible threat, all private sector transportation companies are at your disposal. Each vehicle represents an essential piece of equipment in our state’s toolbox as we work together to end this deadly virus. We are taking the utmost care in vigorously and diligently cleaning our vehicles for the health and safety of our passengers and drivers.

I urge you to designate the for-hire vehicle passenger ground transportation industry an essential service in our state to allow us to continue playing a crucial role in the health and safety of our citizens.

Thank you for all you are doing for our state, for our people, and for our businesses at this immensely challenging moment.