

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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June 17, 2020

The Honorable Daniel T. Blue, Jr.
Senate Minority Leader
16 West Jones Street
Legislative Building, Room 2129
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-1030

Senator Blue,

I received a copy of your letter to Senator Berger detailing the concerns of your caucus about measures taken here at the General Assembly to protect members, staff, and visitors from potential exposure to Covid-19.

We have made every effort to clean the building on an enhanced basis, provided hand sanitizing products despite limited supplies, made PPEs available on demand and instituted temperature checks to diminish risk of exposure. We encouraged individuals to stay at home if they or a family member showed any symptoms and allowed staff members to work from home, if possible.

While many of the cleaning and safety measures employed are not obvious to a casual observer, they are very effective. The addition of electrostatic cleaners has helped us clean and prepare spaces for use on a more expedient basis, and the efforts by ISD to arrange and provide for remote meetings has provided many members and staff the opportunity to keep safe distances when desired.

Our continued efforts have resulted in well over a million dollars in added expenses to our budget, and we remain committed to our efforts.



Please understand that I have no control over the actions of members, Sgt. At Arms, or members' staffs. Nor do I have the ability to monitor or enforce social distancing in the chamber or in committee rooms among members. Those issues are best addressed directly with the membership and leadership.

I made the decision to cease the temperature checks and move to a nurse-based model of care due to the fact that we have not had a single case of an elevated temperature reading during the past six weeks. However, I can appreciate your concern that the procedure provided an extra feeling of safety.

Therefore, I have asked our nursing team to staff back up and work with our police officers to provide the temperature checks next week while the Senate and House are in session. Please share this information with your caucus.

As you know, I remain committed to the health and safety of everyone at the NCGA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Coble". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being more prominent than the last name "Coble".

Paul Coble

cc: Senator Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore
Representative Tim Moore, Speaker of the House
Representative Darren Jackson, House Minority Leader