



Ned Lamont
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

June 9, 2020

Speaker Joe Aresimowicz
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
Room: 4105

President Pro Tempore Martin Looney
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
Room: 3300

House Majority Leader Matt Ritter
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
Room: 4106

Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
Room: 3300

Representative Themis Klarides
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
Room: 4200

Senator Len Fasano
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
Room: 3402

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I write to inform you that I intend to call the legislature into special session very soon to resolve the issue of absentee ballots in the November general election and take immediate action on police accountability and transparency in the wake of the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last month.

On the issue of absentee ballots for the November general election, Secretary of the State Denise Merrill needs to undertake a number of measures in short order to ensure expanded absentee balloting can be done in a secure and orderly manner in November. She cannot do so responsibly without legislation that closely mirrors the recent Executive Order I issued for the August primary. Because my emergency powers are currently set to expire on September 9, I am unable to resolve the absentee balloting issue for the November general election through an Executive Order at this time.

In addition, the recent events in Minneapolis and the public outcry over similar events throughout the country require us to seize this moment and work together now to enact measures that will ensure our communities of color feel safe and have confidence that law enforcement and our criminal justice system as a whole treat all of our citizens fairly and equally.

Both of these issues must be addressed together quickly, and preferably, in a bipartisan manner in a special session. To that end, I have directed my Chief of Staff to contact each of you immediately to commence discussions that will result in proposed legislation that I am hopeful all of us can support. Once we have agreed upon a package that has sufficient support in both chambers, I will issue a call for a special session that is tailored to specifically address that legislation. I will not issue a call for a special session until or unless that happens, however.

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for us to act quickly and with focus on the issues I have identified.

Let's work together now on the urgent issues the public expects us to address.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ned Lamont". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ned" and the last name "Lamont" clearly distinguishable.

Ned Lamont
Governor