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March 30, 2020

Dear Colleague:

I want to update you on our process for considering Member budget priorities. I previously sent a letter to each of you asking for a list of priorities by April 13th to help organize requests for the 2020-21 budget. Like many other things, this process will need to be adjusted due to COVID 19, as the state's budget needs and resources have changed. I no longer request that you and your office submit a priority list to me.

We must lower expectations about our budget outlook to reflect our new reality. With state revenues likely being dramatically reduced in the coming year, I do not believe we will have resources to fund many Member priorities this year, beyond a small few that deal with the response and recovery to COVID 19. In addition, the long hiatus of budget hearings over the recess may force us to simplify our usual budget process and defer action on many items in order to meet the June 15th constitutional deadline.

As we respond to this disaster and then move into recovery, however, your ideas are more important than ever. I welcome hearing about any Member budget priority related to COVID 19 at any time, with no deadline. These requests should be submitted in writing on your letterhead and will be forwarded to the appropriate subcommittee. Getting your ideas out into the public discussion will be critical as we work together to rebuild California.

As we get a better gauge on the impact of this virus on the state's fiscal picture, I will update Members with a process that reflects what is possible. Until then, I want to remove the previous deadline and conserve your time and resources for the important work of responding to this public health emergency.

Feel free to reach out to me or contact Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant of Assembly Budget Committee, with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Y. Ting".

Philip Y. Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee

