



### **KS House District 114 Candidate Jeff Stroberg's statement on COVID-19**

The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most difficult challenges our country has faced. However, Kansans share a tradition of rising to do whatever is necessary to combat and neutralize threats to our way of life.

Governor Laura Kelly acted early to hold down Kansas' infection rate, even as New York and other states saw COVID-19's devastating effects in their hospitals and nursing homes.

The preamble of the constitution states the primary role of government is to "promote the general welfare" of the people of the United States. Therefore, it is incumbent on our elected officials to act to protect our populace against clear and present dangers. To allow a virus to run virtually unimpeded throughout Kansas is a violation of one of our government's most fundamental functions.

There are economic consequences to a lax approach. For example, Sweden's policy of few restrictions provided a natural experiment supporting this conclusion. Per million people, Sweden has suffered 40 percent more deaths than the United States, 12 times more than Norway, and seven times more than Finland. Sweden also endured business-destroying, prosperity-diminishing damage to its economy at nearly the same magnitude as its neighbors. In short, Sweden saw a vastly higher death rate and failed to avoid economic declines.

Countries that enacted a more stringent approach were rewarded with better outcomes and a return to some semblance of normalcy. Italy was absolutely ravaged by coronavirus in March and April, but a combination of social distancing, wearing masks, coordinated messaging and a deference to science over politics has brought the virus to relative containment.

If we apply these lessons to our own approach here in Kansas, we too can contain COVID-19.