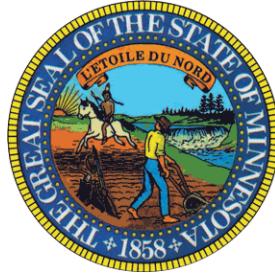


**Lisa Demuth**  
**State Representative**

District 13A



# Minnesota House of Representatives

January 14, 2021

The Honorable Tim Walz  
Governor of Minnesota  
130 State Capitol  
St. Paul, MN 55155

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Dear Governor Walz,

We write to you today to request uniformity between indoor and outdoor dining at restaurants and wedding and entertainment venues. Specifically, we urge you to alter the current guidelines under Executive Order 21-01 on wedding and entertainment venues to match the guidelines for restaurants.

Under your Executive Order 21-01, the indoor capacity for venues hosting gatherings with food and beverage is capped at two households with a maximum of ten people; the outdoor capacity is capped at three households with a maximum of fifteen people.

On the other hand, “[r]estaurants, food courts, cafes, coffeehouses, bars, taverns, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, brewer taprooms, micro distiller cocktail rooms, tasting rooms, wineries, cideries, clubhouses, dining clubs, tobacco product shops, hookah bars, cigar bars, vaping lounges, and other Places of Public Accommodation offering food, beverages”<sup>1</sup> are allowed an indoor occupancy at 50 percent of the normal capacity, with a maximum of 150 people; occupancy of outdoor space is allowed for up to 150 patrons as long as physical distancing of six feet can be maintained between each parties table.

The food service industry has been one of the hardest hit since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. More than that, the industry has unfairly faced and been negatively affected by the bulk of burdensome government regulations. Under these inconsistent guidelines, caterers and venues with in-house catering services are not able to provide their services to the highest quality or quantity. The result of this inconsistency includes a lack of revenue, layoffs, and customers who are forced to look elsewhere to host their events due to this arbitrary and inconsistent rule within the Executive Order.

We should not be picking the winners and losers in an industry that has already suffered so much—from vendors and distributors to owners and their employees—Minnesota citizens are being unfairly affected by the inconsistency of COVID-19 guidelines and rules. There is no justifiable reason why these venues should not be able to operate under the same procedures and protocols as those enacted for restaurants.

We ask you to work with urgency to reconsider these inconsistent procedures and instead consider the hard-working Minnesotans who are unfairly losing their livelihoods to these arbitrary restrictions.

Sincerely,

Rep. Lisa Demuth

Minority Leader Kurt Daudt

Representative Barb Haley

CC: Commissioner Jan Malcolm  
Commissioner Steve Grove

<sup>1</sup> [https://mn.gov/governor/assets/Executive%20Order%2021-01%20Signed%20and%20Filed\\_tcm1055-462272.pdf](https://mn.gov/governor/assets/Executive%20Order%2021-01%20Signed%20and%20Filed_tcm1055-462272.pdf)

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Representative Peggy Scott

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Representative Sondra Erickson

Representative Joe McDonald

Representative Brian Daniels

Representative Jim Nash

Representative Shane Mekeland

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