



6065 Barfield Road NE • Atlanta, Georgia 30328-4402 • p: (770) 451-1831 • f: (678) 922-7750 • toll free: (866) 280-0576 • www.garealtor.com

March 24, 2020

The Honorable Brian Kemp
Governor of Georgia
206 Washington Street
Suite 203, State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Governor Kemp,

For 100 years the Georgia REALTORS® have stood as the voice of real estate in Georgia. Through those years, real estate has served as the backbone for the state's economy. In a recent report from our parent organization, the National Association of REALTORS®, the real estate industry accounts for 16.2%, or \$95.2 billion of Georgia's economy.* In our current State of Emergency, the Georgia REALTORS® stand with you and are ready to assist in navigating Georgia through these rough waters and back into a strong recovery.

Under the State of Emergency, we are offering our members guidance in complying with the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and the Georgia Department of Health. Our members to date have been able to conduct business within these parameters, maintaining the health and safety standards necessary to stymie the virus' infection rate, while concurrently seeing contracts through to fruition. Our industry is placing people in homes, ensuring that renters are safe, and keeping the flow of resources for small businesses and families fluid. Thus, we feel that the industry is a vital and essential service to the state.

Virtual closings facilitated through the authorization of remote online notarization and the establishment of real estate as an essential industry will allow the real estate industry to continue to operate over the coming weeks in a safe manner. Under your leadership the state will weather this storm and emerge strong. The Georgia REALTORS® stand with you as a ready partner and are at your service.

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On behalf of our 43,000+ members we look forward to playing our part in keeping Georgia healthy, strong and prosperous; with you, and to borrow one of your favorite phrases we will Keep On Choppin' through this crisis.

God bless and stay well,

Faron W. King, 2020 GAR President
Northeast Georgia Board of REALTORS®

Dorrie Love, 2020 GAR President-Elect
Fayette County Board of REALTORS®

Deb Junkin, Chief Executive Officer
Georgia Association of REALTORS®

Chris Jiles, 2020 GAR Immediate Past President
Columbus Board of REALTORS®

Joey B. Tucker, 2020 First Vice President
Athens Area Association of REALTORS®

Lisa Scully, 2020 Vice President of Governmental Affairs
Columbus Board of REALTORS®

Jim Barner, Vice President of Member & Public Services
Northwest Metro Association of REALTORS®

Stephen Walker, Vice President of Professional Development
Fayette County Board of REALTORS®

** NAR, 2018 State Economic Impact of Real Estate Activity 06/06/2019*