

13TH DISTRICT  
**SCOTT MARTIN**

SENATE BOX 203013  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3013  
PHONE: (717) 787-6535  
FAX: (717) 772-5471

135 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1-A  
STRASBURG, PA 17579  
PHONE: (717) 397-1309  
FAX: (717) 299-7798

[www.senatorscottmartinpa.com](http://www.senatorscottmartinpa.com)

**COMMITTEES**

EDUCATION, CHAIR  
APPROPRIATIONS  
JUDICIARY  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY



## Senate of Pennsylvania

Oct. 6, 2021

Secretary Noe Ortega  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Acting Secretary Alison Beam  
625 Forster Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Secretary Ortega and Acting Secretary Beam,

On September 24, 2021, I sent a letter that contained important questions that must be answered after your failure to attend the September 23, Senate Education Committee Hearing. As of today, we have still not received your responses to those vital questions. Please communicate with us your answers so we can provide this information to school districts throughout the state as we are continuing to hear concerns and questions regarding how schools are to work through the various and, at times, conflicting guidance provided by your departments. If you had attended the September 23<sup>rd</sup> hearing, you would have learned about the desperate need for clarity from school districts in order to implement this hastily crafted and vague mandate.

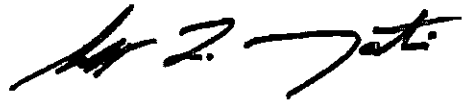
Since then, alarmed parents have reached out about disturbing letters from the state Department of Health addressed to their minor children. These letters, signed by Acting Secretary Beam, threaten to use the court system and law enforcement to forcibly quarantine these children.

The letter tells the children: "If you do not cooperate with this directive, the Secretary of Health may petition a court to have you confined to an appropriate place chosen by the Department to make certain that you are not able to infect the public . . . Law enforcement may be called upon, to the extent necessary, to ensure your compliance with this directive."

Bullying children by telling them that the court system and law enforcement may remove them from their homes and place them in another location to be cared for by the government is wildly inappropriate. These intimidating letters are another example of the Wolf Administration's unseemly COVID-19 response. The letters must stop immediately. When an Acting Secretary of Health threatens children that they could be removed from their home simply because they MIGHT have been exposed to someone that was sick, the questionable actions of the Department of Health have reached a new low, and those involved should be held accountable.

I expect a response to my original questions sent on September 24 as well as notification that you have ceased sending letters to children, threatening to remove them from their home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott F. Martin". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Scott F. Martin  
Pennsylvania State Senator, 13<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District