On Thursday March 19, 2020, Governor Eric Holcomb announced that all schools in Indiana would be closed thru May 1, 2020, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. As COVID-19 continues to escalate in the U.S. and Indiana, it raises numerous issues and unanswered questions. Both Indiana Governor Holcomb and the CDC have made it clear it is necessary to prohibit large gatherings regardless of their sponsorship or purpose.

SkillsUSA Indiana remains committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its members and stakeholders. Therefore, we regret to inform you that the 2020 SkillsUSA Indiana State Leadership and Skills Conference in Indianapolis, IN has been **completely cancelled**. The decision to cancel this event was a difficult one. Careful consideration was given to the possibility of alternative contest formats. In light of these recent events, it was determined by our SkillsUSA Board of Directors that it was not in the best interest of our SkillsUSA community. We realize the disappointment this will cause for all our dedicated students and teachers who worked hard throughout the year to get to this event. However, we also know that same dedication and work ethic — as well as so many other positive traits gained through SkillsUSA involvement — will help all of us weather this temporary storm and emerge stronger when this crisis inevitably clears.

While a significant amount of money has been spent to purchase materials and supplies for the state conference, we will be able to use all of it towards future events. Membership dues are non-refundable, and we will be refunding all state conference registrations and hotel fees that have been deposited and will return any checks that have been received not yet deposited. Please allow 3-4 weeks for the refund checks or the return of your checks sent in. If you have not paid the registration or hotel fees, please cancel all payment requests immediately.

We recognize this is not an ideal situation, but the safety and well-being of members, advisors, volunteers, and staff is our top priority. We echo the advice of Governor Holcomb and the Indiana Department of Health in asking all Hoosiers to engage in and promote the practice of everyday preventive actions, such as social distancing and proper handwashing and sanitation practices.

We thank you for your patience. Please remain connected with us on our state website and on social media for more updates as they emerge and future plans from the effects of this unprecedented occurrence.

Thank you for everything you do and for your continued support,

Kelley Baker
State Director