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Dear Governor Mike DeWine,

I first want to thank you for your leadership during these unprecedented times. Your swift and decisive actions have undoubtedly saved lives. All data seems to evidence that Ohio is indeed flattening the curve. Unfortunately, one consequence of a flattened curve is a prolonged shutdown of the economy. This is a price millions of Americans are willing to pay in order to save the lives of the most vulnerable in society.

I write to you today on behalf of not only students at Wright State but also thousands of students in the higher education system that find themselves in similar positions. On March 27th, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act into law. This law provided much needed economic relief to individuals and businesses that are now suffering due to the shutdown of the economy. One form of relief in particular was a \$1,200 stimulus check that was earmarked for individuals who earn less than \$75,000 annually.

There were, however, stipulations to receive this stimulus check that had unintended consequences for millions of college and university students across the United States. One of these stipulations was a requirement that an individual had to have filed taxes as an independent in the past year.

Many college students are financially independent. However, it is oftentimes financially expedient for the parents or guardians of college students to claim their children on their taxes. This had the effect of disqualifying many Wright State students from receiving the much needed stimulus check.

At this point, it is becoming increasingly evident that another relief package might be passed by the Congress, which may include another stimulus check for individuals. On behalf of the students at Wright State University, I ask you to work with the Ohio Congressional Delegation to advocate for a solution that will provide the needed relief to the individuals that fall under this unique circumstance.

This time of uncertainty is stressful and anxiety inducing. The economic hardships caused by this only contribute to the stress of not knowing what the next day or week has in store. Providing this economic relief to students will help greatly to ensuring that all Ohioans are prepared to rejoin the economy when the time comes.

I want to thank you again for your bold leadership during this time. I fly my American flag daily at your request to show that we stand united. We are in this together Ohio.

Respectfully,
Ivan Mallett
President, Wright State University Student Government Association.