MEMORANDUM

TO: State Departments and Agencies

FROM: Terry England, House of Representatives Appropriations Chair
Blake Tillery, Senate Appropriations Chair
Kelly Farr, Office of Planning and Budget Director

DATE: May 1, 2020

RE: FY 2021 Budget

We find ourselves in unprecedented times. COVID-19 has dealt a blow to our local, state, national and world economy.

Words cannot express our joint appreciation for the incredible work your agencies and employees have been doing during this time. We realize that working remotely has presented many challenges; however, we have heard nothing but praise for your determination, compassion, and strength. You have proven your commitment to all Georgians.

However, the actions we have had to take as a state and as a nation to protect the health of our citizens is significantly impacting our economy and our state revenues. As you know, we have a strict Constitutional mandate to create and adopt a balanced budget for our state. Due to the rapidly changing revenue picture for FY 2021, at this time we are asking every state agency to prepare for an FY 2021 budget that includes a 14% reduction from their FY 2020 original base. Please email your revised budget plans to our offices by May 20, 2020.

While the Great Recession of 2008 was considered then to be a "once in a lifetime" event, our current situation will certainly overshadow it. That is why this request is being made to ALL areas of the state budget with no exceptions.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.