## **BOB BALLINGER**

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MEMBER:

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL JOINT BUDGET STATE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS JUDICIARY

## THE SENATE STATE OF ARKANSAS

## We Support Arkansans Right to Go to Work

Arkansans have weathered these unprecedented times with the resolve that is the hallmark of our resilient people. We have made the necessary sacrifices in order to overcome this crisis. The House and Senate Republican Caucuses of the Arkansas Legislature would like to commend our constituents for their sacrifice. These sacrifices have allowed us to flatten the curve of COVID-19, prevent our healthcare systems from being overwhelmed, and minimize the impact on the health of Arkansans. We have more work ahead, but Arkansans have proven themselves able to match this foe.

From the outset, Governor Hutchinson's measured approach to mitigating COVID-19 has enabled many Arkansans to continue to go to work and provide for their families, even as other states enacted draconian measures that cut off the livelihoods of its citizens often without significant benefit to public health. We commend the Governor for that approach and for beginning the process of reopening Arkansas's economy. As small businesses close their doors, workers sign up for unemployment by the tens of thousands, and families burn through the last of their savings, we must approach this phase with the same urgency shown when working to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

The same tenacity that enables Arkansans to fight this virus also acts as a catalyst in motivating them to get back to work. It is this spirit that moves in our communities today and stirs in the heart of every hardworking Arkansan. Arkansans are a responsible and conscientious people. When given the opportunity to return to work, we know they will take the necessary precautions to protect public health. While we will all continue to voluntarily sacrifice for our fellow man in order to prevent greater spread of this virus, we also know that it is time to unleash our "Arkansas determination" in the land of opportunity. It is now time for Arkansas to open back up.

Senator Bob Ballinger Senate District 5 Senator Alan Clark
Senate District 13

Senator Breanne Davis Senate District 16

Senator Lance Eads Senate District 7

Senator Scott Flippo Senate District 17

Senator Trent Garner Senate District 27

Senator Kim Hammer Senate District 33

Senator Bart Hester Senate District 1 Senator Jimmy Hickey, Jr. Senate District 11

Senator Ricky Hill Senate District 29

Senator Missy Irvin Senate District 18

Senator Mark Johnson Senate District 15

Senator Jason Rapert
Senate District 35

Senator Terry Rice Senate District 9

Senator Gary Stubblefield

Senate District 6