Dear Connecticut Legislature,

It is without hesitation that I implore you to vote against extending the Emergency Powers of Governor Lamont for any more time. As a Civics teacher, it has become impossible for me to answer questions regarding the government of this state from my students. The emergency powers defy separation of power as well as checks and balances that are embedded in the state Constitution. The unknowns of the spring of 2020 are well past us. The emergency powers were put in place to deal with short term emergencies that the legislative process was too time consuming to handle. The time has come for the legislature to fully take back its rightful place in state government.

During the spring of 2021, the legislature met and conducted business all while the governor's emergency powers continued. How can it be both? It is either the emergency is so great that the legislature can not meet, or the legislature can meet and do its job. But it can not be both. How can there be an emergency so great in the state of Connecticut that powers must remain in the hands of the governor but the governor has time to visit the state of Florida? Again, if the emergency is so great, how can he possibly leave the state for vacation?

Additionally, how is it possible that the legislature has allowed the governor to contract with COVID testing companies that directly profit the governor and his wife? On top of that, the governor then passes executive orders that force thousands of citizens in this state to get tested for COVID weekly. This is unconscionable. The emergency powers have led to corruption in addition to the unbelievable consequences on the economy, mental health of children, education and our society.

Republicans, please continue to hold the line. Democrats, stop being told by leadership that you need to vote with the party line. Vote with your conscience. Vote based on what your constituents want. Vote for democracy and not for tyranny.

Thank you for your time and service.

Aaron Hoffman
Stafford Springs, CT