

My name is Allison Soto and the purpose of this testimony is to state my position on extending Governor Lamont's emergency powers. Next month will be two years since the COVID-19 pandemic began. During this time, the people have endured a tremendous amount of hardship not only because of the virus, but also because of the overreach by Governor Lamont. In fact, when the state was facing a real issue due to no tests in late December and early January, Governor Lamont was vacationing in Florida instead of helping the citizens of Connecticut when they needed his help. Why would anyone vote to extend his powers after this huge show of incompetency?

I was one of the thousands of people who needed to get a PCR test in early January. On January 1st, I experienced COVID symptoms and was not well. I had to travel throughout Danbury in search of a PCR test. I wasted three hours of my time at various testing locations in the city and was unsuccessful at every place I tried. The receptionist at one urgent care in Danbury told me I had to line up two hours before they opened and maybe then I would get a test! So, the next morning, I woke up at 5:45 A.M. and travelled 30 minutes to Southbury to stand in line for two hours in hopes of getting a test. I had to do this despite the fact that I had a fever, chills and was fatigued! When the urgent care opened, I did receive a test ticket, but then I had to sit in my car for three more hours to wait until I was called! I was sick and in the cold early in the morning into the afternoon waiting for six hours before I could test! This is absolutely unacceptable and all the while Governor Lamont was in sunny Florida on vacation!

After this experience I reached out to my elected officials in Danbury and told them that I was not happy with their decision to support Governor Lamont when his "powers" were extended before. I also told them that if the Governor did not have absurd rules for testing healthy people, then maybe there would have been more tests in the state for those people, like

me, who needed it. We all learned that the fallacy we had been told about vaccinated people being unable to contract COVID-19 is not true. Therefore, mandating that healthy people test for COVID-19 while vaccinated people do not is utterly ridiculous! Bottom line, Governor Lamont no longer needs executive order power whether it is limited or not. He has misused his power and enough is enough! Last I checked, only three states in the United States still had emergency powers for their governors. Those forty plus other states are doing just fine and are allowing people to make their own decisions; they are not shut down, they do not have mask mandates and they do not require vaccines in order to work! Give the power back to the people and hopefully in November this will be a non-issue, because Governor Lamont will be voted out and people will finally be free to return to making their own health care decisions!