

Legislative hearing on the Continuation of Emergency Declarations and Limited Executive Orders

Recently I heard that there is traction at the State and Federal level to get Civics back into our curriculum. To teach students how to engage in government, what government is, and why it matters. Yet we sit at a crossroads today of government officials continuing to have way more power than they should have ever been granted. No, I am not testifying at the wrong meeting, please hear me out. If you want citizens to be engaged, then you must listen when they speak. There are those who have become so disillusioned over the last 2-3 years of the lack of government hearing & responding to their voices, hours and hours of testimony, people who have never spoken up or written a letter finally getting involved only to find out that their elected leaders will solely only vote with their caucus. They find out that their leaders, no matter the thousands who show up in protest, will not deviate from what was discussed behind closed doors and they will not vote outside their party line.

And we wonder why we need to teach civics? Let's be clear this is a hearing about executive orders. Those of us standing up today are representing many who have become apathetic due to leaders refusing to listen, many feel like their voices will never make a difference. If this many people register, show up, protest, what does this tell you? That you should keep voting against what the people are asking for. Your party leaders are not your bosses, some of you have gotten civics wrong. Your job is to represent those who elected you not make deals on I'll vote for your bill if you vote for mine. You are supposed to be our voice, our leaders. We are urging you that a single leader rule over the last 2 years is enough! Stop the executive orders, let local leaders lead, vote for what the people are asking for. No more mandates, repeal the legislation that went into effect last year removing religious exemption. Let citizens chose their own means of protecting themselves and their neighbors. Trust us, we know how to protect each other! We know how to be kind and compassionate, we know how to stay home when we are sick. You have finally put in a sick leave policy in CT, please make sure that it is widely accessible, especially to single parent families. Hold employers accountable for discriminatory policies. We the citizens are begging you to uphold the Constitution, to show students that civics is alive in Connecticut and that the citizenry can make a difference. Please vote against the extension of Executive powers and please do not vote any of the current orders into law.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Frost