

Statement in Opposition to
Any Proposed Extension of the State of Emergency

February 7, 2022

BY E-MAIL

To: CT General Assembly Leadership:
Messrs. Looney, Ritter, Duff, Rojas, K. Kelly, and Candelora

From: Mary Jenkins, Greenwich, CT

I have reviewed the letter dated January 21, 2022, addressed to you by Governor Ned Lamont, requesting an extension of his emergency powers past the currently scheduled February 15, 2022 expiration date, including continuation of eleven of his Executive Orders.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any further extension of extraordinary powers outside of the normal operation of the government of the State of Connecticut. After two years, the emergency nature of the COVID pandemic has been eliminated by the broad availability of vaccines, the development of therapeutics and hospital safety protocols, and the reduction in the number of cases requiring hospitalization and ICU stays. This is not to minimize in any respect the tragedy of illness and death that has been suffered.

Our state government, as established by law and the consent of its citizens, should be able to deal with difficult and complex situations like our emergence from this health crisis. If it is not able to do so, ceding extraordinary powers to the state executive should not be considered an appropriate remedy.

In addition, Executive Orders are not an alternative to legislative research, discussion and drafting. Issues covered by them should be considered *de novo* by the legislative branch so that the people's voices from around the state may be heard.

Many of the statements in the Governor's letter, especially those regarding medical questions like boosters and mask use, are subject to differences of expert opinion in both the medical and civilian communities. If Connecticut continues to take the most restrictive approach to these issues, it will find itself increasingly distrusted by its residents and disadvantaged in its business and social activities.

It is time, and past time, to return to business as normal. I urge the General Assembly to demonstrate their independence and determination to do so.