

EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS AND LIMITED EXECUTIVE ORDERS

February 8, 2022

Esteemed Legislators,

Thank you for holding a public discussion of the Emergency Declarations and Limited Executive Orders. I appreciate the increasing desire for an off-ramp from an emergency state.

As you consider whether to delegate COVID response to local officials, please consider requiring the Department of Public Health (DPH) and State Department of Education to provide community leaders with clear and realistic guidance based on vaccination rates, disease prevalence, and health outcomes. Without these metrics, local leaders - who may not have a background in public health or the expertise that the DPH has access to - are understandably often reluctant to mandate changes.

If these metrics cannot be provided, because of the ever-changing nature of the pandemic, then the Connecticut General Assembly should plan for the ability to act at the state level. Otherwise, “decisions based on what works best for a community” will lead to contentious local discussions, conflict between neighboring communities, and reluctance to act. I am encouraged by how far we have come in the last two years and am hopeful that we are over the worst of this pandemic, but we also need to be prepared for the possibility of more waves of infection.

Thank you for your careful consideration of the issues,

Michelle Embree Ku
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