

Tanya Stone
241 Parish Hill Road
Chaplin, CT 06235

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RE: Informational Hearing on the Continuation of Emergency Declarations and Limited Executive Orders

Dear Esteemed Committee Members,

I support a Continuation of Emergency Declarations and Limited Executive Orders. This pandemic is not over. I feel that the Governor, working with the State Department of Public Health and other science-informed public health agencies in and outside of Connecticut has steered his constituents through muddled and swiftly changing deadly waters as best he could.

This global health crisis has underscored the importance of expediency of action in mitigating the spread of this virus and supplying hospitals and healthcare workers with resources needed to save the lives of those who become infected and ill. Eliminating the Emergency Declaration would not allow necessary expediency. Recently, South Korea has had an uptick in cases and deaths after have very few for some time. There are new variants emerging and our National vaccine-only strategy isn't enough when so many people refuse to be vaccinated or cannot access the vaccine for a myriad of reasons.

As a disabled person, I am more at risk for a negative outcome from contracting Covid. There are personal measures I can take to protect myself... but I also need the community-at-large to act responsibly. Unfortunately, even with rules and mandates in place, there are some people who have proven they, in fact, do not care if they cause my death or the death of any of their other vulnerable neighbors. Whether their actions were deliberate malice, willful ignorance or medical misinformation is not for me to determine. People who refused to wear masks indoors when our local officials imposed them because our positivity rate was such indoor mask wearing was necessary to mitigate the spread of Covid have put me at risk. Members of this state legislature led lawsuits against mask mandates in schools would have put me at grave risk if their lawsuit was successful.

These people do not reflect my values. I do not want to pass along this virus to anyone nor do I want to contract it. I do not view mitigation measures as impediments to my freedoms. I view the risks freedom loving anti-maskers and anti-vaxxers impose upon me by their negligent actions as impediments to my freedom to live.

My life depends on public health polices informed by medical research and science. There is a significant constituency in state government who view life-saving Covid measures as impositions to their "Freedoms".

Frankly, I do not want those people "leading the show".

In closing, I would like to quote Mahatma Gandhi:
"A true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members"

Thank you,

Tanya Stone