

Dear Legislator,

In two weeks, I know you will be meeting once again for the 6<sup>th</sup> special session (August 20). Because of the way the special session is conducted, bills show up less than 24 hours before they are passed, and I would like to give my feedback right now regarding any potential bills that may get passed. We are right now in the situation where the phrase “Nothing is more permanent than a temporary solution that works” is about to come true. Therefore, I would like to **STRONGLY** urge you take my concerns into account when you vote this time.

I have two major concerns:

1. Extension of the Emergency.

The Governor’s emergency powers have been extended till August 20, mostly based on the need for Federal Funds stated by Rep. Peterson. While this was sold to us as “helping small businesses”, it is more helpful to just let businesses go back to being fully open without restrictions, as Rep. Paul Ray put it. Otherwise, it would be the equivalent of preventing someone from breathing by blocking their airway, and then putting them on a ventilator to “help” them. That is what the effect on small businesses has really been.

In addition, the Governor has been extending the emergency without data to back it up. And by now, the common man knows that the situation does not warrant such drastic measures in Utah, where the death rate has been 0.01% (324 deaths out of a population of 3.2 million, many with comorbidities). And contrary to Code 63G-3, the Governor has been issuing executive orders that apply to a class of persons, illegally. ***THIS HAS TO STOP***. As a member of the legislature it is *your responsibility* to make sure to apply checks and balances on the Executive. And I will hold you responsible for it. Several of you, such as Rep.s Stratton, Malloy, and Ray have clearly stated that they would not support an extension of the emergency in this session. About 22 in the house and 7 in the senate have opposed the emergency even in the last session. Please join them.

In a nutshell: Please VOTE NO for extending the emergency, or allow the emergency to lapse without extension.

2. Health Department’s powers.

The amount of power given to the health department has been made clear in the current scenario. Sections of Utah Code such as 26-1-30 and 26A-1-114 that allow unlimited powers to shut down institutions and seize property under the pretext of an emergency cannot be allowed to continue as they stand. So a bill to curtail the powers of the health department directly, *without handing it over to any other body*, is the need of the hour.

In a nutshell: Please VOTE to curtail the department’s powers regarding its ability to effect mass closures and violating personal rights.

Thanks,