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Governor's attempt to extend state of emergency

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To: LeeChatfield@house.mi.gov, luke.meerman@house.mi.gov, StevenJohnson@house.mi.gov

Non-government email addresses omitted

I was just alerted to an article that stated: In a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey and House Speaker Lee Chatfield, Whitmer requested the resolutions be in place for at least 70 days, meaning it won't expire until June 9th.

It's bad enough that she is indicating she will be canceling school for the rest of the school year, but our economy, our businesses both large and small, and our workforce cannot survive the statewide shutdown extending into June. There is already irreparable harm caused to businesses and individuals alike. If this does not end soon, this "fix" will be far worse than the original problem.

Many people in favor of forced self-quarantine, or the continuation of stay at home orders, talk about the need for a healthy, able-bodied people to sacrifice. That's not what this is. Sacrifice implies choice. We are not given a choice when it becomes a misdemeanor to run your small business or attend a wedding. There is no sacrifice in that; it is all mandates by the government. That is what directly violates our rights. That is not about the community coming together to find a solution for all, but rather the government just telling us what is best for us. Taking away our right to assemble, our right to worship corporately, our right to be physically present at government meetings, and our right to earn a living... Not to mention how we are compromising the rights and safety of many who already live in dangerous conditions every day. Have you seen the stories reported indicating that domestic abuse incidents and child abuse and neglect incidents have skyrocketed since the quarantine? And why wouldn't they?? The Michigan government is forcing everyone to stay at home, even if they are in unsafe situations. Those with this virus are not the only people being hurt by what's going on!

Even with the best of all quarantine protocols put in place, and the best of all medical equipment available, the Coronavirus is not going away next week, next month, or next year. We are in just the first year of a 3-year cycle. We cannot keep going at this rate. We must find a way to better protect those who are immunocompromised, and allow those who are not to get back to learning and working and living.

I do not write you now to give you grief, but rather to urge you to reduce the unnecessary government restraints on individual freedoms. If I could be of assistance to this end, please do not hesitate to call, text, or email me. I would be more than happy to help brainstorm ideas, reality test likely solutions, or identify problematic areas of written responses to the governor's recent requests.

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