

Submitter: Amelia Barton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Measure: SB1517

Testimony - Amelia F. Barton - Beaverton Oregon

I strongly support SB 1517. Please vote YES to help us move on from the pandemic.

“Emergency Declarations” created by the Governor of Oregon have now been in effect in Oregon for OVER 700 days. These measures have created unnecessary suffering throughout the entire state of Oregon.

WE MUST HAVE appropriate CHECKS and BALANCES in a Constitutional Democracy.

It is time to take proper action, so that current and future Governors of Oregon cannot usurp the entire population under the guise of an "emergency," and endlessly continue this emergency status without providing supporting facts and documentation; and legislative input.

The recent report: "Effects of Lockdowns on Covid-19 Mortality" by Johns Hopkins University outlines the negative impacts of lockdowns, and how these public interventions had and still have virtually no effect on the pandemic. (link: <https://sites.krieger.jhu.edu/iae/files/2022/01/A-Literature-Review-and-Meta-Analysis-of-the-Effects-of-Lockdowns-on-COVID-19-Mortality.pdf>):

From the study: “While this meta-analysis concludes that lockdowns have had little to no public health effects, they have imposed enormous economic and social costs where they have been adopted. In consequence, lockdown policies are ill-founded and should be rejected as a pandemic policy instrument.”

We have had data indicating that the lockdowns may be doing more harm than good for society overall, since early on in the pandemic. Yet there was NO debate, no legislative input into the "emergency" and therefore it went on too long without recourse.

By requiring evidence in writing by the governor for future emergencies in order to declare a state of emergency, LIMITING THE TOTAL DAYS of emergency allowed, and limiting sequential "emergencies" for the same situation; we are ensuring an accurate and accountable process.

We can also do appropriate cost/risk analysis, when making decisions, WITH the

legislative branch.

This government overreach ends here, and legislative checks and balances begin with this bill.

Vote YES on SB 1517, and let's get this passed.