

Submitter: Timari Prevish  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB1529

SB 1529 A-Engrossed states in Section 1 line 14

“A determination by the Public Health Director that there exists a disease outbreak, epidemic or other condition of public health importance statewide or in a specified geographic area of this state.”

This gives one, unelected person the ability to determine anything a “public health emergency”. There are no parameters on these powers. He/She could determine that with one case of chicken pox, there is an outbreak in xyz county and all kids must now learn remotely. Or the Public Health Director could determine that it is now “flu season” and everyone must wear masks at all times. Or the one, unelected Public Health Director could determine that there is an outbreak of “fill-in-the-blank next virus” and all restaurants must be closed (or reduced to 50% seating or take out only, etc.) The bill allows volunteer health care providers to be deployed by Public Health Director to do anything because there are no parameters on this bill. The Public Health Director could direct these volunteers to go door to door to force vaccinations or anything else.

This portion of the bill is poorly written and the bill should be opposed. This bill gives the one, unelected person too much power without any restraint.