

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

May 14, 2021

The Honorable Wylie Galt
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

The Honorable Mark Blasdel
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Speaker Galt and President Blasdel:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto House Bill 158, "AN ACT CREATING A COVID-19 RESPONSE STUDY COMMISSION; ESTABLISHING THE MEMBERSHIP, DUTIES, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMISSION; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; PROVIDING FOR CONTINGENT VOIDNESS; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES AND A TERMINATION DATE."

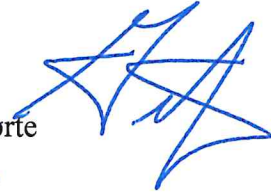

HB 158 authorizes the establishment of a COVID-19 Response Study Commission tasked with reviewing all statutes, administrative rules, and other regulations suspended or revised during the pandemic, as well as assessing whether these suspensions or revisions proved beneficial to Montana and its citizens. The bill also appropriates \$50,000 from the general fund for purposes of launching and running the commission.

As Montanans continue to confront the pandemic, the light at the end of the tunnel gets brighter and brighter. My administration is already conducting a top-to-bottom regulatory review of state agencies through our Red Tape Relief Task Force. While I appreciate the sponsor sharing my goal of identifying and eliminating excessive, outdated, and unnecessary regulations, I see no reason to form a pandemic-specific study commission and look backwards. I encourage Rep. Hinkle to partner with us as we continue our existing initiative to streamline government in the interest of all Montanans.

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For these reasons, I veto HB 158.

Sincerely,



Greg Gianforte
Governor

cc: Legislative Services Division
Secretary Christi Jacobsen