



1930 9th Avenue, Helena, MT 59601 | 406.457.0000 | pureviewhealthcenter.org

December 14, 2020

President Mark Blasdel
Minority Leader Jill Cohenour
Montana State Senate
Montana State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Speaker Wylie Galt
Minority Leader Kim Abbott
Montana State House of Representatives
Montana State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

RE: 67th Legislature

Dear President Blasdel, Minority Leader Cohenour, Speaker Galt, and Minority Leader Abbott:

The 67th convening of the Montana Legislature is set to begin January 4, 2020. The PureView Health Center Board of Directors and staff urges you as leaders of the state to hold the 2021 Legislative Session virtually until such a time when the majority of legislators, legislative staff, and visitors to the building are vaccinated against COVID-19.

PureView Health Center is a federally qualified health center with locations in Helena, East Helena, and Lincoln, Montana. PureView sees more than 8,000 people per year; and serves our communities' most vulnerable populations. As healthcare providers that have been on the frontline of the COVID-19 fight and have been deeply impacted by both patients and staff becoming ill or quarantined due to COVID-19, we believe that the legislative session should initially be 100% virtual for all participants to ensure the health and safety of all.

PureView Health Center is one of two COVID-19 testing sites in Helena. On average, we test more than 200 people per day. We have had to hire several people for this effort, and have nearly reached our capacity to both continue testing and seeing patients at our health center sites. We are deeply concerned with the impacts an in-person session will have on the health systems in Helena; PureView included. As an organization that works every day to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our communities and witness the devastating impact of the illness firsthand, we believe an in-person session is a risk that the leaders of our state should not take at this time. Furthermore, given the prospective timeline for vaccine distribution, we believe that the Session could convene in-person in late winter/early spring in such a way that the majority of participants can be assured of their personal and familial safety.

The PureView Health Center Board of Directors and staff appreciates the opportunity to submit this comment. If you have any additional questions, please Jill Steeley, CEO at jill.steeley@pureviewhealthcenter.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Steeley".

Jill-Marie Steeley, MPH
Chief Executive Officer



PureView Health Center's Board of Directors:

Mike Murray, Chair

Jenny Eck, Vice-Chair

Doug Williams, Treasurer

John Wilkinson, Secretary

Eric Bryson

A.C. Rothenbuecher

Dr. Robert Smith

William Cooper, Captain, MTARNG

Lori Ladas

Laura Nicolai

Justin Murgel

Erin Lyndes

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:01 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 12:01

Your Full Name:

Shelley Lustman

Email Address:

shelleypip@aol.com

Subject Line:

Public access

Your Comment:

In person public access helps with transparency in our government it's important that you represent we the people, Therefore mandating anything outside of your authority and in conflict with the constitution is the dereliction of duty

Upload Written Testimony:

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Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 11:52

Your Full Name:
Shaun A Pandina

Email Address:
Shaun@getstampin.com

Subject Line:
Rules of this Session

Your Comment:
Please support the following rules. Support "in person secession" Support "Full public access to the Capitol" This is paramount it is a violation of open meeting laws not to. Zoom is not a reasonable accommodation. Many montanans do not have internet access. OPPOSE Mandatory Masks and Face Coverings in the Capitol. Thank you for taking time to consider my comments Sincerely Shaun Pandina

Upload Written Testimony:
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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 11:33

Your Full Name:

LaRae Miller

Email Address:

houseplantguru@gmail.com

Subject Line:

2021 Session

Your Comment:

I would respectfully request that the 2021 Legislative Session be held in person in Helena. I do not think that it is appropriate that our government do business at home but rather should participate in the peoples work in the capital building. I also vehemently request that there be no limit, in any sense of the word, to the public's access to the hearings being conducted there. It is the founding principle of our country that the citizens be allowed direct access to the people and processes that affect our future. This would include medical exemptions to any sort of face covering.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:10 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 11:10

Your Full Name:
Lauren Gette-King

Email Address:
lauren.gette.king@gmail.com

Subject Line:
Ensuring a Safe Legislative Session

Your Comment:
As a frontline worker in Helena, I urge the Committee to host a fully virtual legislative session to maintain the health and safety of elected officials and legislative staff. This will also ensure the safety of those living and working in the wider Helena community. Thank you.

Upload Written Testimony:
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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:04 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 11:04

Your Full Name:

Terry Charles

Email Address:

terrycharles48@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Call to Action

Your Comment:

SUPPORT an all "In-Person Session" (we want legislators at work in Helena, not sitting at home behind a computer screen – Do the People's Business!) SUPPORT Full Public Access to the Legislative Process to Everyone (no COVID closures of the Capitol) OPPOSE Mandatory Masks and Face Coverings in the Capitol Thank you for your attention to these matter. Terry Charles

Upload Written Testimony:

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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 10:51

Your Full Name:

Valerie Harms

Email Address:

valerie@valerieharms.com

Subject Line:

health rules

Your Comment:

Wear masks, sit 6 ft apart, or go virtual.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:17 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 10:17

Your Full Name:

Callie

Email Address:

cdasinger@hotmail.com

Subject Line:

Unfair representation

Your Comment:

Please vote against the measure that would make 15 GOP representatives be on one committee, thus removing the fairness of the people to be adequately represented by their elected representative. I have only received a small amount of information on the measure, but can obviously see that a committee made up of all one party is not a democracy.

Upload Written Testimony:

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To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 10:11

Your Full Name:
Rebecca Stanton

Email Address:
blstanton@gmail.com

Subject Line:
No to HR1 as amended by HR101ATE!

Your Comment:

This amendment effectively gives all of the power and control of what is heard in the legislature to 15 people - THIS IS NOT DEMOCRACY! It means that any bill that the committee chairs deems unnecessary won't be heard - and all of the bills should be heard if we are actually running a representative democracy. I voted for my representative so that they could bring my views to the legislature - and if the power to not hear bills is given to only 15 people, then why did I bother voting for a representative? The purpose of the committees is to hear all of the bills that are brought forward by representatives. I do not want 15 people to be able to decide the future of Montana. THAT IS NOT NORMAL! And it pushes us further away from representative democracy and more towards authoritarianism. I ask the committee to say no to this amendment because the integrity of our Montana legislature is at stake.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:22 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 08:21

Your Full Name:

John O'Neil

Email Address:

cbjon22@centurylink.net

Subject Line:

sessions

Your Comment:

support in person session. support full public access. Oppose mandantory masks.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:02 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 08:02

Your Full Name:
Shelley Lustman

Email Address:
shelleypip@aol.com

Subject Line:
Public opinion

Your Comment:
In person and public access is imperative! mandatory anything is outside of your authority, and in conflict with our constitution This is our Supreme law. please represent we the people or our republic will be lost

Upload Written Testimony:
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Subject Line:
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Email Address:
shelleypip@aol.com

Subject Line:
Public opinion

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Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 08:02

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Shelley Lustman

Email Address:
shelleypip@aol.com

Subject Line:
Public opinion

Your Comment:
In person and public access is imperative! mandatory anything is outside of your authority, and in conflict with our constitution This is our Supreme law. please represent we the people or our republic will be lost

Upload Written Testimony:
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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 6:28 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 06:27

Your Full Name:

Ruth K Dargis

Email Address:

ruthkdargis@hotmail.com

Subject Line:

Covid-19 safety

Your Comment:

The legislature should act in the best interests of Montanans. They should insist that members wear face masks, maintain social distancing, etc. when meeting in person. They should allow those who so desire to participate by Zoom or other virtual media. I am 80 years old and, until enough people are vaccinated, at risk every day. Don't increase the risks I will get sick, and then probably die.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 1:27 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 14th December 2020 01:27

Your Full Name:

Dae Pellens

Email Address:

cuppycakeninja@hotmail.com

Subject Line:

Dec 15 call to action

Your Comment:

Call to Action #1 · SUPPORT an all “In-Person Session” (we want legislators at work in Helena, not sitting at home behind a computer screen – Do the People’s Business!) · SUPPORT Full Public Access to the Legislative Process to Everyone (no COVID closures of the Capitol) · OPPOSE Mandatory Masks and Face Coverings in the Capitol Call to Action #2 Republican Caucus to recall the House Speaker-elect, Wylie Galt. Thank you concerned Montana citizen

Upload Written Testimony:

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Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:53 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 13th December 2020 23:53

Your Full Name:

Krista Harrison

Email Address:

kharrison@protonmail.com

Subject Line:

Upcoming rules vote re legislative session and COVID

Your Comment:

As a mother and Montanan resident who is deeply disturbed by the Constitutional crisis facing our nation (largely enabled through the COVID response), I urge you to: * SUPPORT an all in-person legislative session in Helena; * SUPPORT and ensure full public access to the legislative process (including no COVID closings of the Capitol); * OPPOSE mandatory masks and face coverings at the Capitol. Respectfully, Krista Harrison

Upload Written Testimony:

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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:07 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 13th December 2020 20:07

Your Full Name:
Rebecca Schwartz

Email Address:
rbumb@yahoo.com

Subject Line:
Get to work in HELENA!

Your Comment:
All in person session - to do the peoples business. Full Public Access to the Legislative Process to Everyone (no COVID closures of the Capitol) and NOMandatory Masks and Face Coverings in the Capitol

Upload Written Testimony:
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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 7:22 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 13th December 2020 19:22

Your Full Name:
Cheryl Ehresman

Email Address:
Cheryreedpoint@gmail.com

Subject Line:
Abuse in the by elected Representatives

Your Comment:

I am appalled by the behavior of Republican Reps. Their behavior is abusive and ignorant. The verbal abuse is abhorrent and the belittling of scientific evidence concerning Covid is the height of ignorance. What is going on up there? My family and I live here, we love our state. You are allowing it to be destroyed. Drop the self-serving arrogance and do your jobs.

Upload Written Testimony:

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