

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:10 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 13:09

Your Full Name:

Ann Gilkey

Email Address:

Annkgilkey@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Public Safety

Your Comment:

Please please please allow virtual public testimony, comments and legislator participation by zoom, or other remote option. For anyone gathering in person - PLEASE require masks. Even though vaccines are arriving, it is at least a month after a person's first dose for immunity. Your work is important, but everyone's health and safety must be prioritized. There are simple precautions which - if required- will save lives.

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: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:47 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 12:47

Your Full Name:

Joyce E Hein

Email Address:

joyszhei@aol.com

Subject Line:

COVID Precautions

Your Comment:

Please set an example of safety by requiring masks. Please. Leadership by Example is THE most powerful tool we have for slowing the spread till the vaccine effect takes over. It doesn't take deep thought to see how even one virus spreading person can set off an exponential explosion (which is where we are currently AT)

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—

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Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 12:45

Your Full Name:

Mary Stabio

Email Address:

mjbernio1988@gmail.com

Subject Line:

2021 session

Your Comment:

I would like to see masks and social distancing be required for the 2021 session. If this is not possible, I would like to see the session postponed until it is safe to meet without masks and social distancing. We do not need to further spread Covid at this time.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:40 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 12:39

Your Full Name:

Tom Glover

Email Address:

tomglover@mcn.net

Subject Line:

Wear a mask

Your Comment:

Be smarter than those other guys who won't wear a mask or avoid indoor exchange of infections be they covid-19 or the flu.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

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Date: 15th December 2020 12:39

Your Full Name:

Jane B Amdahl

Email Address:

jane_b_a@hotmail.com

Subject Line:

Please hold virtual sessions during the pandemic.

Your Comment:

Montana has far too many people sick with covid-19 for the Legislature to hold in-person sessions this year. My daughter, a healthy 40-year-old, is just recovering from a bout with this disease because someone else did not take it seriously enough or care enough about others to wear a mask. I am a volunteer lobbyist for AARP Montana and we have been forbidden to appear at any committee hearings or even go into the capitol during the session because of covid-19. Think of the people of Helena who might be exposed by legislators coming from across the state who don't know they are carrying the germ, or of their constituents they can bring it home to without realizing. There are ways to do this session virtually --please look into them.

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Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 12:36

Your Full Name:

Linda Semones

Email Address:

lindasemones@hotmail.com

Subject Line:

accept reality and use the amendments!

Your Comment:

There is still no vaccination for the general public. If legislators become ill, they will be unable to perform their elected duty. Logically, you would think the legislators would want to protect their ability to serve. Not to mention to keep themselves safe from a debilitating disease that for some of their age could lead to death. This doesn't appear to be a partisan issue to many, myself included, after my daughter, husband and grandson all contracted the virus and are still in recovery after a month. Your sleep habits will change. Your energy will be gone. Your strength will suffer. Just do the right thing for the State of Montana, your family and yourselves. Vote for one of 3 options: complete distance legislature, partial distance legislature with legal distance voting, or at a minimum, masks, social distancing and hand cleansing during the session. Is 300,000 not enough?

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Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 12:18

Your Full Name:
Shannon R Wilson

Email Address:
montanametalgirl@gmail.com

Subject Line:
Protocol for protection of our legislators

Your Comment:
Please mandate the use of masks and use of social distancing for the duration of the 2021 legislative session. The session would become a super spreader event and risk the lives of those in attendance if these measures are not put into place. Over 300,000 lives have been lost to the coronavirus this year. Please do not put anymore Montanans at risk. Do the right thing and protect our legislators. Thank you from this voter in Great Falls, Montana.

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Date: 15th December 2020 12:12

Your Full Name:

Jasmine Krotkov

Email Address:

JasmineKrotkov4MT@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Proposed changes to house rules

Your Comment:

Thank you for hearing my concerns. I appreciate the time you're giving to hear me out. When I listened to testimony on bills in committee hearings, I learned a lot. The friction of opposing views helped me to look past my first impression of a bill. That's why I urge you to not adopt the proposed rule changes allowing committee chairs to kill bills without a hearing, to prevent action on bills that have had a hearing, and to limit debate on the house floor. Of course adopting these rules would make the legislative work flow more streamlined. It would also be more streamlined to eliminate public comment like I am making now, but it would not be good leadership. The goal of governance in a democracy isn't just to be as quick as possible. Good leadership accommodates dissent and new ideas, and allows for meaningful societal change without resorting to uprisings and protests. That process of listening to people is hard. It's messy, it's aggravating and slow. But it works. It's what William Penn had in mind when he said of his "Holy Experiment" in Pennsylvania: "Governments, like clocks, go from the motion men give them." It is important to listen to the people, and it's also important to get the work done. Each state has come up with its own way to balance these needs. There are 22 state legislatures which require all bills to be heard. -19 state legislatures give discretion solely to the committee chair. -40 state legislatures allow bills to be carried over to the next session. -3 state legislatures require input from the bill's author, the committee chair and the presiding officer before a bill gets a hearing. There are many ways to ensure that all voices in a state get to be heard. Montanan's expect no less, and aren't ready to accept the tyranny of the majority. I call on this committee to leave in place the rules that have been working for this citizen legislature. These proposed rule changes will stifle the kind of debate that makes legislation better. Thank you again for your kind attention to my thoughts.

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Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 11:49

Your Full Name:

Bonnie Lambert

Email Address:

bonnieglambert@icloud.com

Subject Line:

“Stop the Spread” The Helena Community wants to stop the spread of Covid-19.

Your Comment:

Montana Legislators, Helenans strongly request all of you follow Lewis & Clark Co Health Dept guidelines for containing & eliminating COVID -19 in our community. Not only will you have a better chance of remaining healthy, but so will your families, constituents & your Helena hosts. Do the right thing—keep our community and yours, safe.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Date: 15th December 2020 11:49

Your Full Name:

Laurie Glover

Email Address:

Nurse_glover@yahoo.com

Subject Line:

Require masks and distancing

Your Comment:

As a public health professional, educator, and citizen, I am in favor of requiring masks and distancing at the Legislature. The Capitol is a gathering place of people from around the state. They deserve protection from disease that can be transmitted by asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers. Please do the right thing for Montana's health and Montana's economy by following evidence-based guidelines from CDC and our local and state health departments. Viruses are not political, don't make this political.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Date: 15th December 2020 11:48

Your Full Name:

Susan Elliott

Email Address:

elli@startmail.com

Subject Line:

Safety Protocols for Legislative Session

Your Comment:

For the safety of all the members of the legislature, the staff, and public, please require masks and social distancing throughout the 2021 legislative session. If this protocol is not acceptable, please postpone the session until it is safe to meet in-person.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Date: 15th December 2020 11:40

Your Full Name:

Darien Scott

Email Address:

darien637@msn.com

Subject Line:

Joint Rules Committee Openness

Your Comment:

In this time of so much division and animosity, I think it behooves the Joint Rules Committee to show as much transparency and openness to the public as possible. Our leaders have to start trying to regain the public's trust. By doing what your chairmen have proposed, only increases the public's mistrust. Building better relationships and regaining the public's trust, has to start now.

Upload Written Testimony:

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To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee
Attachments: Written testimony to Leg Joint Rules 12.docx

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 11:34

Your Full Name:

Mary Ann Dunwell

Email Address:

maryann.dunwell@mtleg.gov

Subject Line:

Session pandemic planning

Your Comment:

Hello, I represent Montana House District 84 Helena and East Helena in the state legislature and have grave concerns about the upcoming 2021 session. On behalf of the health, safety and livelihoods of my constituents in the Capital City and surrounding area, I implore you to postpone session for a few months until the COVID19 vaccination program is well underway. Either that or plan for an all-remote session. For my constituents, the Capital City is their home. It's not a place for state lawmakers to act irresponsibly in the midst of a raging, wretched, deadly pandemic, without legislative concern for the negative consequences my community members will face. This includes increased burden on our dedicated healthcare workers who work overtime and tirelessly, yet are overwhelmed and overworked. It includes small businesses that can only stay open when their employees are safe, healthy and protected from the virus. It includes our friends, neighbors and loved ones who see the light at end of this long pandemic tunnel, but it will be snuffed out or certainly delayed unless the legislature acts responsibly. We have three weeks until the start of session and still have no resolution on a plan to maintain public health and safety. As I write this, 300-thousand Americans have died, Montana is approaching 1,000 deaths of our friends, neighbors and loved ones, and case numbers increase daily. Lewis and Clark County's health officer, board of health, commissioners, city commissioners, the Montana Nurses Association and many more voices are appealing to you to delay session or conduct our legislative business remotely. The proposed legislative COVID Panel is an insufficient and bad solution. It's a politicized, partisan, band-aid, reactive, after-the-fact approach. We need a proactive, comprehensive, public health-informed strategy, which should be to swear us in remotely on January 4th, per statute, then adjourn for several months until it's safe for Montana to have its legislature meet in person, or legislate completely remotely. Please be the leaders you were elected to be. Thank you. Sincerely, Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell, HD 84 Helena/East Helena.

Upload Written Testimony:

/media/djangocms_forms/joint-rules-committee-comments-18/Written_testimony_to_Leg_Joint_Rules_12_a982737d2723af86089288b40120e95f64816645.docx

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: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:31 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee
Attachments: Montana House Rules Committee letter.docx

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 11:30

Your Full Name:
WANDA LOUISE LACROIX

Email Address:
kittywampus63@gmail.com

Subject Line:
Covid-19 policies

Your Comment:
Please see the attachment.

Upload Written Testimony:
/media/djangocms_forms/joint-rules-committee-comments-18/Montana_House_Rules_Committee_letter_92b8ab8a435a8d4b7aec0e1232b781ed1aed1d80.docx

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

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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: 15th December 2020 11:21

Your Full Name:
Jeanette Calarco

Email Address:
jcalarco416@gmail.com

Subject Line:
COVID-19

Your Comment:
Please do the responsible thing and require masks and social distancing throughout the 2021 legislative session.

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

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Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 11:13

Your Full Name:

Lisa Flanagan

Email Address:

lflanagan@bresnan.net

Subject Line:

Virtual session requested

Your Comment:

As a nurse, I have concerns about the impact in-person legislature meetings will have on the Helena healthcare community as well as the home towns of the representatives and senators. It would be excellent modeling for students (and adults) across the state as well.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Fox, Susan

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Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:56 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 10:55

Your Full Name:

Gordon Whirry

Email Address:

gwhirry@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Citizen rights to participate safely and fully in government

Your Comment:

I urge you to act responsibly and provide Montanans a safe environment at the Capitol. Legislators and members of the public deserve to participate in our democracy without risking their health and that of their loved ones. During this dangerous pandemic it is only common sense to trust local health officials and follow the basic regulations required to control the coronavirus. Proper wearing of masks should be required for all and ample opportunities to participate remotely should be offered. It is not too much to expect our legislators to model responsible behavior and protect their fellow Montanans. The health of our normal legislative process is also at risk if proposed changes to the rules are enacted. Committee chairs should not be able to unilaterally kill bills without full committee consideration. Efforts to consolidate power and limit public input are undemocratic and can lead to poor decisions. Our constitutional right to participate in government must be protected.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 10:31

Your Full Name:
Barbara Burkland

Email Address:
bbnjburkland@bresnan.net

Subject Line:
Legislative Session

Your Comment:
Please rule that the 2021 session will be held remotely. Our hospital and medical providers in Helena are overwhelmed. We cannot have this town flooded with visitors now. It must be online for ALL or just the most careless with some political statement will show up. Not fair to the residents of Helen's and surrounding areas.

Upload Written Testimony:
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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 10:29

Your Full Name:
Dannette Fadness

Email Address:
dannettefadness@gmail.com

Subject Line:
Masks required

Your Comment:
Please require masks to keep our communities safe and honor our health care workers and those we have lost to COVID.

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

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 10:29

Your Full Name:

S. Lorinne Burke

Email Address:

lorinneburke@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Mask up

Your Comment:

Wear a mask in sessions so that we don't have to attend anymore Zoom funerals.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 10:17

Your Full Name:
ELIZABETH HALVERSON

Email Address:
liz.halverson@gmail.com

Subject Line:
COVID safety

Your Comment:
please require masks and distancing at all times during the 2021 Legislative Session. MANY Montanans have died. Our rural medical providers are inundated and sending patients to bigger hospitals, which are also overwhelmed. the easiest safety measure is masking but YOU MUST LEAD on this and require masking during the session. Save \$, save lives, show REAL support for medical personnel.

Upload Written Testimony:
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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 10:15

Your Full Name:

Sheila Bonnard

Email Address:

bonnard272@gmail.com

Subject Line:

HR1

Your Comment:

I am writing in opposition to HR1, which would put too much power in the hands of committee chairs. We citizens send 100 REPRESENTATIVES to the legislature and expect them all to have a say in legislation. Allowing a committee chair alone to kill a bill means that many in Montana will not be truly represented in this process.

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Date: 15th December 2020 10:12

Your Full Name:

Beckie Squires

Email Address:

bsquires749@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Protect the people who elected you

Your Comment:

As elected public officials it is your job to protect and provide a good example to the people who elected you. Either mask up and social distance or hold the session virtually.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 10:01

Your Full Name:

Tiffany Williams

Email Address:

tiffanyphotographymt@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Masks

Your Comment:

I just lost someone I love to Covid-19. It would be fantastic if masks were required at all legislative meetings so that no one else has to experience this pain.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 09:55

Your Full Name:

Kiely S Lammers

Email Address:

kielylammers@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Follow CDC Guidelines

Your Comment:

Please follow the CDC guidelines and require strict social distancing and mask-wearing throughout the 2021 legislative session. If you are unwilling to do that, please postpone the session until it is safe to be in-person. Many other red states are doing this, including Idaho. It is your job to protect your constituents and each other. Do the right thing.

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Date: 15th December 2020 09:54

Your Full Name:

Jennifer Beazer

Email Address:

JENNBEAZER@GMAIL.COM

Subject Line:

masks

Your Comment:

Please wear masks and socially distance yourselves as examples of leaders in a worldwide pandemic.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Date: 15th December 2020 09:54

Your Full Name:

Meadow Nilles

Email Address:

meadow726@yahoo.com

Subject Line:

COVID safety during the legislative season

Your Comment:

Dear Leaders, I am asking you to display your leadership for our state, during the upcoming legislative season. In spite of the exciting news of the COVID vaccine, it is clear we are still squarely in the midst of the pandemic and the need to uphold our safety measures of masks, 6 foot distancing and frequent hand washing has never been more important. I am asking that all legislative sessions require mask wearing and 6 foot physical distancing. This is important to ensure the health and safety of our elected leaders, and it is extremely important to display this leadership to the citizens of our state. You have asked to be a leader of our state, and we have elected you as such. Please display your leadership by leading us in this. Very sincerely, Meadow Nilles

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 09:44

Your Full Name:
Patricia Christian

Email Address:
christian.patricia72@gmail.com

Subject Line:
Do not meet in person - please!

Your Comment:

As a resident of Helena, I implore you to consider the health and well-being of our city, our health care workers, our residents of congregant living facilities, and the economic health of our community. Please either meet virtually, completely, or postpone the start of the session, or a combination. Do not descend on us, congregate unsafely in the capitol building, and then come out into the city to infect us. There is NO down side to postponing or meeting virtually beside some inconvenience. Balance that against the deaths, long term consequences of the virus for some people (e.g. the White House staffer who suffered for three weeks and had his lower leg amputated), and risks of having to shut down more severely and longer. It is a no-brainer. Put aside the politics. The virus doesn't care about your political party. We know that the major mode of transmission is indoor gatherings with people not masked and not practicing social distancing. Meeting in person guarantees transmission - and therefor death and permanent harm. How irresponsible!

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 08:46

Your Full Name:

Leslie Mutchler

Email Address:

lesmuch@hotmail.com

Subject Line:

HR1

Your Comment:

I want you to vote against HR1. I do not agree that 15 representatives should have control over which bills are heard. We have a full House of Representatives to ensure that all of Montana is represented. I am strongly opposed to this bill

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 08:44

Your Full Name:

Alan Wilson

Email Address:

acwilson@acwei.com

Subject Line:

I support an all in person session, I support full public access to legislative process, I oppose mandatory masks or face coverings.

Your Comment:

I support an all in person session, legislators need to be in session in person representing their constituents not from a computer screen I support full public access to all legislative processes, no lock downs to eliminate public scrutiny. I oppose any kind of mandatory face covering or masks in the capitol. Thank you for your consideration

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: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:15 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 08:14

Your Full Name:
Marybeth Toney Clark

Email Address:
toneybeth@yahoo.com

Subject Line:
Joint Rules Committee

Your Comment:
Please be a good example and acknowledge the dangers of Covid-19 transmission and allow participation and voting by Zoom.

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: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:13 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 08:13

Your Full Name:
Ted D D Valentiner Jr

Email Address:
traildrive@hotmail.com

Subject Line:
Upcoming Legislative Session

Your Comment:
I would like to request, in the strongest possible terms, that 1) The session is to be held in person only. 2) The Capitol will remain open to the public. 3) Masks within the Capitol complex should be a matter of personal choice! Thank you Ted D Valentiner

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: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:13 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 08:12

Your Full Name:

Pamela Merrell

Email Address:

pkm0630@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Legislation submission rule

Your Comment:

Please do not approve the rule which will disenfranchise most of the legislators by giving total control to a tiny number of legislators over the introduction of legislation. Don't join the Republican rabble that is seeking to destroy democracy in American and now, here in Montana.

Upload Written Testimony:

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