

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:49 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 19:48

Your Full Name:

Amber Sherrill

Email Address:

amberrsherrill@yahoo.com

Subject Line:

Mandatory Masks for legislators

Your Comment:

As our legislators meet from communities around our state and then return, it is important for the health of all our communities that legislators either meet remotely and are all able to vote this way or that we at minimum require they all wear masks. Please make sure all Montanans voices are heard by making sure to keep our legislators safe and making sure everyone is able to vote.

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 7:45 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 19:44

Your Full Name:

Lisa Harmon

Email Address:

lisa.harmon@firstchurchbillings.org

Subject Line:

Masks

Your Comment:

To wear a mask during a pandemic is an act of love for the sick, an act of kindness for those who fear, and an act of respect for beloved community and humanity, of which we are all one. We breathe the same air. Let's protect each other out of love and kindness and responsibility to each other. Please require that this session be masked!

Upload Written Testimony:

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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:37 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 19:36

Your Full Name:

Ita Killeen

Email Address:

ikilleen@bridgergeoplan.com

Subject Line:

vote against HR1 as amended by HR101ATE

Your Comment:

Please vote AGAINST HR1 as amended by HR101ATE. This centers too much power in the hands of a few committee chairs. Please return to the principle of every bill deserves to be heard as in past legislature sessions. Respectfully, Ita Killeen MD

Upload Written Testimony:

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 19:36

Your Full Name:

Shelly Meyer

Email Address:

crone.1753@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Public safety

Your Comment:

Please require social distancing and masks in the 2021 MT Legislative Session to protect all legislators and support staff in the capital. If you cannot muster the courage to take this basic step to protect public health, then the 2021 session should be postponed.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Fox, Susan

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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 19:34

Your Full Name:

Teri Ball

Email Address:

balldt@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Vote against HR1 as amended by HR101ATE

Your Comment:

It is not democracy to allow 100% of the bills being considered in Montana to fall on one of 15 committee chairs. this bill would mean that 850,000+ Montanans would be unrepresented under these rules. Vote No.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

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Fox, Susan

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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 19:15

Your Full Name:

Zehra Osman

Email Address:

dazeler@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Please vote against HR1 as amended by HR101ATE

Your Comment:

Please vote against HR1 as amended by HR101ATE. If it passes, 850,000+ Montanans would be unrepresented under these rules. The measure allows a committee chair to simply never schedule a bill hearing if the chair doesn't like the bill. 100% of the bills to be considered in MT would fall on one of 15 chairs. 85 other House Reps would have no say. The passing of this measure would be wrong and very undemocratic because it would mean that the voice of Montana citizens will not be heard in the MT legislature. So PLEASE vote AGAINST HR1 as amended by HR101AT. Sincerely, Zehra Osman Bozeman MT 58718

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: 15th December 2020 19:13

Your Full Name:

Blaine Jensen

Email Address:

b.squires@hotmail.com

Subject Line:

Vote No on HR1 as amended by HR101ATE

Your Comment:

Honorable members of the committee, I am writing to ask you all to vote "No" on HR1 as amended by HR101ATE. Montanans do not want our legislature twisted with a partisan bottleneck that will give undue power to the 15 committee chairs to decide the fate of all bills in the upcoming session. Montana's citizen legislature has worked well for decades. It is under threat from dark money since the Supreme Court struck down our very sensible voter protection laws designed to keep the Anaconda Company from buying our government. We will not stand for this way of capturing the legislative process by the majority party. We elected you to do the job of writing our laws, not to create a pseudo-executive panel whose seats were not filled at the ballot. We will be watching your votes on this matter and expect that you will do the right thing by voting "No" on HR1 as amended by HR101ATE. Thank you for your public service. Blaine Jensen Helena, MT

Upload Written Testimony:

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Fox, Susan

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Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:48 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 18:47

Your Full Name:

JoAnn Hanson

Email Address:

jhansonmt@gmail.co

Subject Line:

Legislative session 2021

Your Comment:

I know you care about your community. Please care about ours in Helena and either delay the 2021 Legislative session or at the very least, follow the mandates recommended by the CDC. Wear masks, practice social distancing; i.e., 6 feet separation, and avoid indoor crowds greater than 25. Thank you for protecting our health and yours.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Fox, Susan

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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 18:09

Your Full Name:

Patti Webster

Email Address:

5mtwebsters@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Legislative Conduct

Your Comment:

Please adopt CDC guidelines and those of the County you conduct business in to carry out all activities, on and off the Capitol. The healthcare system in Montana is overwhelmed. Please be responsible to your community and the state of Montana. Wear a mask, social distance and wash your hands. Thank You

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: 15th December 2020 18:26

Your Full Name:

Lisa Heil

Email Address:

floatswithclouds@yahoo.com

Subject Line:

COVID Safety

Your Comment:

I am a resident of Kalispell and know first hand how overwhelmed our health care workers are. Everybody should have a right to a safe legislative session! You must require masks for all attendees, and there needs to be an option for people to attend virtually. I lost a dear friend to this disease recently. She was fine before she got sick. It can happen fast, and it is unpredictable. Stop treating our citizens like they are disposable.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:06 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 18:06

Your Full Name:

Leslie Clark

Email Address:

leslie.b.clarkmt@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Rules for 2021 Legislative Session

Your Comment:

Dear Legislators In the interest of public safety I strongly urge you to observe the current state guidelines of masking and social distancing. You are our state's leaders. To do otherwise you send a negative message to the Montana people and you forsake all our medical workers and essential workers in the business place who have worked so hard to keep us safe. I can't imagine how our medical workers felt seeing the majority of GOP legislators not wearing masks in the meeting 2 weeks ago. That was totally irresponsible behavior for the supposed leadership of Montana. Thank you, Leslie Clark

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Fox, Susan

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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 17:54

Your Full Name:

Shani henry

Email Address:

shanihenry1@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Legislative session

Your Comment:

Please either delay the session, or move it to a virtual format due to Covid risk. This is a matter of public safety for all legislators and staff. I am very concerned that the session will end up halted due to an outbreak if adequate precautions are not taken. I also feel strongly that masks must be worn, in combination with proper social distancing by anyone in the building. Thank you for your time and 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/

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 17:54

Your Full Name:

Sue Kirchmyer

Email Address:

suek@montana.com

Subject Line:

Rules Committees and Joint Rules Committee- HR1 changes and health rules

Your Comment:

HR 1: I am writing to urge the Rules committees of the House and Senate to respect the need of Montana citizens to have their legislators' bills receive the expected attention by the committees so they can be heard by the legislature and by the citizens. Please do not change the rules to reduce our trust in the legislature. Joint Committee health decisions: Montanans want their legislators to be able to vote safely on our behalf and we expect to be able to participate in the legislature safely. Please do not endanger Helena residents with an influx of people who may not protect their community from infection. Please use remote technology for legislators' votes and for citizen involvement. Thank you.

Upload Written Testimony:

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

Fox, Susan

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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 17:47

Your Full Name:

Bill Entwistle

Email Address:

bill@the-entwistles.com

Subject Line:

Mask usage in session - and in our community

Your Comment:

We welcome the legislature to Helena every two years. This year is no exception. The L@C Health department has supported the Governor's mask mandate for those people indoors to stop the spread of coronavirus. We the citizens of Helena ask that you respect the L@C Health department and respect our community by meeting virtually and wearing masks where appropriate. Please protect our community and yours by stopping the spread.

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

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Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:31 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 17:31

Your Full Name:

Carol Bronson

Email Address:

cwbronson@outlook.com

Subject Line:

Please require masks and social distancing at Legislature

Your Comment:

Please require masks and social distancing at the Legislature and allow the public to participate by Zoom. Please do not put other legislators, staff and the public at risk. Thank you.

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

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 17:05

Your Full Name:
Rick and Jane Hays

Email Address:
hays_50@hotmail.com

Subject Line:
Addressing the Covid pandemic rules

Your Comment:

We submit these thoughts as longtime residents of Helena. Our community has a small, 123-bed hospital. It is currently nearing capacity with Covid patients and routine medical needs. It cannot accommodate a surge in cases in January-April when you traditionally meet in our community. We understand how the legislative process works and how it's traditionally a face-to-face, interactive process. This is NOT a traditional year and warrants a slightly non-traditional approach. We ask you to please, please do not meet in Helena in person this winter!! The technology exists that will accommodate your session quite efficiently and effectively. Please use it! It's designed for your session. If that is not agreeable to the majority party, at a minimum please demand the wearing of masks in our community. You are our guests! I would expect to accommodate your wishes if I am a guest in your community. A mask is a tiny requirement that will protect all of you as well as our community. Please incorporate these ideas into your rules on Wednesday! Thank you for reading this and your service to our state. Sincerely, Rick & Jane Hays / 504 Dearborn / Helena

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Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:03 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 17:02

Your Full Name:

Jim Vernon

Email Address:

jameshvernnonjr@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Limiting who can submit a bill to the montana legislature

Your Comment:

Giving only the 15 committee chairs the power to decide which bills are heard in a Committee of the Montana Legislature is a naked power grab and an obvious attempt to stifle citizens constitutional rights to free speech and freedom of meaningful assembly. The Montana legislature is not composed of only 15 Republicans but 100 Montanans of both parties. Please vote against HR1 as vehicle of this baldfaced power grab. This is not democracy and we will make those who vote for this power grab infamous. With so many real problems in Montana it is appalling that the first order of business is to shut down any discussion but that chosen by the power grabbers.

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

Fox, Susan

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Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:02 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 17:02

Your Full Name:

Suzanne Colon

Email Address:

suzcolon@yahoo.com

Subject Line:

Please do not approve HR101 as defined by 101ATE!!!!

Your Comment:

Giving committee chairs the power to unilaterally silence ideas, voices, or proposals puts too much power in the hands of a very few. This is undemocratic and not good governing practice. Please vote against this. Thank you for serving our state and ALL its people. Yours, Suzanne Colon

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 5:01 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 17:01

Your Full Name:

Sue Hoell

Email Address:

s1hoell@msn.com

Subject Line:

COVID-19 precautions in the State Capitol and in Helena commercial locations.

Your Comment:

Please implement an all-remote 2021 session. Vaccine will not be available to most of us until the session is over. Show that you care about each other, legislative staff, and the public by wearing a mask, self-distancing, and staying home.

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 5:01 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 17:00

Your Full Name:

Brian Hoffman

Email Address:

brihoffman09@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Please Maintain Covid Restrictions for the Legislative Session

Your Comment:

I'm writing to encourage the Joint Rules Committee to keep in place the same Covid-19 restrictions in the capitol that communities all across Montana and the rest of the nation are respecting in order to protect their fellow citizens. Masks have been proven to reduce the spread of the disease which will protect those who work for the legislature and our elected officials both. This is an incredibly divisive time and we need all of our elected officials healthy and safe in order to work together to pass meaningful legislation in our state. This issue of Covid restrictions has become incredibly politicized but the virus doesn't care what side of the aisle you sit on and legislators getting each other sick with a potentially deadly virus is a tragedy not only for them as individuals, but for Montanans as voters; it's disrespectful to the people who work in the capitol and disrespectful to us as constituents. Additionally I encourage the Joint Rules Committee to adopt rules that permit Montanans to submit testimony virtually. There have been nearly 1000 deaths in Montana and nobody should have to risk their life to participate in their own democracy. The thousands of Montanans who are especially vulnerable to Covid, folks with compromised immune systems, elderly citizens, and more, from all political perspectives, have already been deeply marginalized by this virus and the response to it. Denying the opportunity to participate virtually in this dangerous time would be a slap in the face to those vulnerable groups and to those who wish to protect their fellow Montanans and themselves by limiting their exposure. Thank you for your time and be safe.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:59 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 16:58

Your Full Name:

Cherilyn Devries

Email Address:

cherilyn.devries@gmail.com

Subject Line:

COVID-19 prevention in the upcoming session

Your Comment:

Dear Committee Members-- I urge you to require masks and allow virtual access for the upcoming session. COVID-19 has taken a toll across Montana in so many ways. Not only has the increase in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths caused people to miss work and pile up expensive hospital bills. As I see the Joint Rules Committee debate safety precautions for the upcoming session, I am very concerned that legislators are going to put each other at risk, as well as staff in the Capitol. If masks are optional, not only are we at risk for an outbreak, but the risk will prevent Montanans from participating in government. We know what works: masks, social distancing, smaller gatherings, and virtual meetings. In order for everyone to get through the session safely and ensure access to all Montanans, we need to follow these common-sense recommendations from public health experts. Ignoring the impact that COVID-19 has had and could have could be disastrous.

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Fox, Susan

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Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:58 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 16:57

Your Full Name:

Abigail Huseth

Email Address:

abby.huseth@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Vote NO on HR1 as amended by HR101ATE

Your Comment:

I am writing to urge you to vote AGAINST HR1 as amended by HR101ATE. Committee chairs should not have unilateral decision making power over which bills are heard in committee; that is anti-democratic and against Montana values. Denying Montanans transparency and the ability to comment on proposed legislation would be a shameful action by a majority party.

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: 15th December 2020 16:40

Your Full Name:
Bonnie Lorenzen

Email Address:
lorenzen65@yahoo.com

Subject Line:
Covid

Your Comment:

It is imperative that masking and social distancing is required and enforced throughout the upcoming 2021 Legislative session. Montana representatives need to set an example for its people. If school children can wear masks, so can legislators.

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: 15th December 2020 16:39

Your Full Name:
Patti Steinmuller

Email Address:
psteinmul@msn.com

Subject Line:
Follow recommended COVID precautions

Your Comment:

As elected leaders, I expect you to display true leadership in your decision affecting how the 2021 Montana legislative session will be run. Although you have several options, at the minimum I urge you to follow the recommended guidance of the Lewis and Clark Health department including mandatory mask wearing and social distancing. Holding a virtual session or delaying the session are other worthy options to consider. Although vaccine distribution has begun, it will be until at least spring until vaccines are readily available. For the sake of Montana's economy and the health and welfare of its citizens, now it the time for you to demonstrate leadership in the face of this most challenging time in our history. Your personal responsibility is to assist in leading Montana out of this crisis. That is one of the reasons why you were elected. Please display your ability to lead on this issue.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:26 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 16:26

Your Full Name:
Robert Lyman Edwards

Email Address:
rlepolar@gmail.com

Subject Line:
HR1 as amended by HR101ATE

Your Comment:
It appears to me that this rule will give extraordinary power to the 15 committee chairmen, allowing them to quash discussion on proposed bills. That is not representative government, and I strongly oppose the rule change.

Upload Written Testimony:
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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 15th December 2020 16:23

Your Full Name:
Patti Steinmuller

Email Address:
Psteinmul@msn.com

Subject Line:
Vote against HR1 as amended by HR101ATE

Your Comment:
I urge the committee to vote against to HR1 as amended by HR101ATE. Especially since Montana's legislator is comprised of citizens who are charged with representing the entire state, enabling 15 committee chairs to set the entire legislative calendar and silence all the other elected members and their constituents would be undemocratic and nontransparent. Please consider your responsibilities to all Montanans and vote against HR1 as amended by HR101ATE.

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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 16:20

Your Full Name:

Edith Smith

Email Address:

edie@missoulapt.com

Subject Line:

Legislative session and COVID spread

Your Comment:

Please convene the 2021 session maintaining utmost safety from COVID 19 for all. Remote participation guarantees the pandemic will not spread to legislators, staff, other participants, or to Helena citizens. If occasional in person meetings occur, then at a minimum, proper mask use and social distancing will be required.

Upload Written Testimony:

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From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:08 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 16:07

Your Full Name:

Sara Busse

Email Address:

bussess2@gmail.com

Subject Line:

COVID Precautions During Legislative Session Are Required

Your Comment:

As a citizen of the great state of Montana, I am deeply concerned about the current proposal to go against the public health recommendations and mandates of Lewis & Clark Country as well as the CDC. You are the elected leaders of our state. You are in effect telling citizens that rules do not matter, our public health officials don't know what they're talking about, and it's every person for themselves during this unprecedented time in our history - the COVID-19 pandemic. Rules do matter. You know that. Public health leaders DO know what they're talking about, and our state is grounded in taking care of one another. This is not a time to be flagrant. This is a time to buckle down and set the example for what needs to happen: hold most meetings virtually, when in-person is needed, mask up and follow the gathering protocols set forth for the county. Most importantly, take care of one another, and lead. This is but one session. Please don't play politics with a health crisis that can only be controlled by personal responsibility. We are in this together. Please lead as such.

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