

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:27 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 21:26

Your Full Name:

Jens MacAller

Email Address:

jens.macaller@gmail.com

Subject Line:

COIVD-19, Plan and Act Accordingly

Your Comment:

To the Joint Rules Committee, I am an Emergency Department RN in Helena and I see the cost of carelessness every day as COVID-19 continues to spread with increasing speed throughout our community. I urge you to postpone or conduct legislative business through appropriate socially distanced means, including remote meeting technology, in a manner that will provide for the health and safety of yourselves, your fellow legislators, and the communities that you represent and visit. Please keep up the fight against the global pandemic by acting responsibly, allowing remote meetings and remote voting. Legislators can carry out the work they have been elected to do by their constituents without risking their health or contributing to an already overburdened healthcare system. Your choices matter, not only for yourselves but for everyone around you. Let us all act with kindness and consideration for others. You can do so when you enact a comprehensive rules package for the upcoming session that reduces risk of exposure and spread of the disease that I personally fight every shift as a front line healthcare worker. I go to work every day knowing that I will care for someone who is extremely sick or even dying from COVID-19. I hope that the Joint Rules Committee will not contribute to the workload that the healthcare field is already carrying. Do it for yourselves, your friends, your neighbors, fellow Montanans, and do it for me, your frontline worker. Jens MacAller, RN

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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 9:19 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 21:18

Your Full Name:

Erica Hayashida

Email Address:

ericahayashida4@gmail.com

Subject Line:

2021 legislative session

Your Comment:

I am requesting that it is required that masks and social distancing are followed throughout the 2021 legislative session to help stop the spread of COVID-19. If this is a choice that isn't made, please postpone the session until it is safe to be in-person without these precautions.

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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:16 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 21:15

Your Full Name:
FITZGERALD Ashaman CLARK

Email Address:
fitzgeraldclark2@gmail.com

Subject Line:
Committee Chairs rule over bills heard in committee

Your Comment:
Committee chairs should not have an effective veto over which bills are heard in their committees. Every bill deserves to have a chance to make it into law. That is an undemocratic process and seeks to muzzle the voices of members of the minority party. This is shameful. Good bills can come from anyone as can bad bills. They deserve to at least be heard by committee and given a chance without one person being able to decide for themselves over the will of the people.

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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 21:15

Your Full Name:
Mary Ann George

Email Address:
maryann9961@gmail.com

Subject Line:
Conducting the 2021 session online

Your Comment:
Please conduct the 2021 session remotely this year. Montanans all over the state have been successfully been conducting business remotely for the last nine months. Keep legislators and staffers safe.

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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:08 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 21:07

Your Full Name:
Carly Baumgarten

Email Address:
cbaumgarten1023@gmail.com

Subject Line:
Safe legislative session

Your Comment:
To whom it may concern, Please protect the health and safety of our community by mandating masks for in person meetings and/or scheduling meetings online for now. Thank you for your time. Best wishes, Carly Baumgarten

Upload Written Testimony:
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Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:48 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 20:48

Your Full Name:

Theresa M. Vonada

Email Address:

theresav29@icloud.com

Subject Line:

Require masks for legislative session

Your Comment:

I am a medical professional who practices evidence based medicine. The way to control a respiratory virus is with distancing, hand washing and wearing a mask over the nose and mouth. I have little tolerance for politicians entrenched in a false dogma that they are suddenly epidemiologists. If you choose to ignore the science of medicine and spread disease to Helena residents I hope the medical community is able to ignore you when you enter the ER. Don't be fools. It is time to show true leadership. I am not sure why Republicans feel they are not bound by the rules of the rest of society but you are the elected leaders now do what is right for all Montanans, wear a mask. If I can do it all day I think you all can figure it out. I am very disappointed you put politics and religion before your assigned work duties. I was not allowed to do that when I worked at a hospital. You can do better.

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From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:45 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 20:44

Your Full Name:

john cobb

Email Address:

cobbchar@3riversdbs.net

Subject Line:

proposed rule for Chairs to not have hearings on bills

Your Comment:

Comment on proposed rule to not have hearings on bills by decision of the Chair. 1. You may wish to explain to the Public and members of House of Representatives examples of numerous bills that were in the last session that the Chairs would have not held hearings on. There must be a major problem to have this new rule, because if it was only several bills that would not have had hearings, then why need the new rule? 2. The majority will always rule, but should rule with respect of the minority. If the majority rules, then what is the need of having only several persons make decisions to decide if there are hearings or not. We all know that the reason for no hearing, is because the Chair and several others have decided they do not want the bill to have a hearing nor give the Proponents of the bill an opportunity to testify. It is most likely the Leadership and the Chair and several members of the same party had a meeting a decided they did not want the bill even heard in a public hearing. 3. You may wish to make mention of Senate bills examples that would not have been heard so the Senate can have an idea of why they are not given a chance to have hearings on their bills as they represent the People of their District and Montana. 4. You may wish to show when a Chair says or how does a legislator finds out how or when the bill will not be given a hearing. Is it going to be "sometime in the future according to the Chair" or "we will see" or "no hearing on your bill".etc. Legislators need to know that they will be denied the right to representation and the earlier the better for them to respond to this unfairness and lack of fair process. 5. You may wish to explain why the Chair is more important than all the other members, to decide up front that a bill will have no hearing. What makes the Chair wiser and more intelligent, etc. to decide there will be no hearing on a bill by a Representative or Senator. The Chair most likely has not read the bill, nor heard from any proponents of the bill, so what makes the Chair all-knowing and wise to dismiss a bill from a public hearing? Yes the majority of a committee can override a Chair, but there will a lot of pressure not to override the Chair by the majority party. Why not allow people to testify on a bill, let them have their opportunity to give their views, and then if the majority disagrees on the bill, then kill the bill. The Montana Legislature, especially the House is the Institution where Montanans can have this open discussion on state issues and everyone is treated equally and fairly as possible in allowing people to debate their ideas. Allowing People to speak their views, even though they know they are on the losing side of an issue, is something we need to keep in this State. 6. If you are going to pass this rule, you may wish to immediately upon passage by the House of Representatives to have the Chairs make a list of all bills, introduced, not introduced or even written up yet, that will not be heard by the Chair. Make sure you include the Senate proposed bills also, because I am sure they will respond appropriately to the idea of not even hearing certain Senate bills. This early process of denying representation will also allow House of Representatives members to decide how they will appropriately revolt on this action against

democracy. 7. Why wait until the bill is sent to a Chair then denied a hearing date. It would save a lot more money and time of staff to not even write up the bill. It is late in the process, for staff to do all the work, for the Legislator to prepare for a hearing, and then at the end the Chair sets no hearing. If you want to save money and time and be more efficient, then kill the bill early in the process before it is even written up or much work has gone into the bill write up. But then again, if a Legislator is told there is to be no hearing on the bill, while the bill is being written up, what do you think they would do or react. It would not be pleasant to be told one has no voice, no representation, and no fairness of process is given to you. 8. What is it that you are trying to accomplish? The concern was expressed that there are too many bills that are requested. Has anyone broken down those requests to see what is going on? We all know a number of them will never be written up in time for hearings or even written up in the first place. There are not enough staff to write the bills even if the bills could have been introduced. 9. Nothing stops elected leadership from requesting House of Representatives members, to reduce the number bills requests. Where are the contacts by leadership to members requesting they hold back requests? A number of requests are from interim committees as well as state government that need to be heard by the Legislature. There are always a number of requests by Members of the House of Representatives to try and change the status quo of government and they will always be long shots on passing, but they deserve the right to bring a new idea or thought into the process of debate. They are just as equal members of the House as their leadership. 10. No one who sought Office from the People, said they were going to just do what Leadership or their Chairs tell them to do. No one. Yet that is where we are headed if a Chair can simply void any right to debate an idea that is different from the Chair's viewpoint. Once members of the House of Representatives believe there is not a fair process to hearings, there is going to be a major revolt. You will not stop the numerous motions time and time to have hearings on bills, or to bring bills out of appropriations that were dogs and cats and now have no chance of a hearing. It is one thing when only 1 or 2 members complain, on fairness issues, it is different when there are a lot more members complaining and revolting. They have nothing to lose in complaining about the fairness of the process. And as they make more motions to stop the unjust process due to lack of fairness, most times the majority leadership will make harder rules to override what the members who protest are doing. But so what, the more those members fight for fairness of process and the majority doubles down on oppressing them, it will destroy the majority party and is it worth it? Please do unto others as you would have them do unto you. I would recommend you not do the rule on having Chairs not have hearings. That leadership talk and insist to members about reducing the bills requests. That leadership get updates of just what type of bills requests are out there to see what can be reduced in bill numbers. That leadership make clear that all bills introduced within the time limits as required to have hearings, will have hearings. That the Public as much as possible will have the opportunity to testify on bills at hearings. Sincerely; John Cobb

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Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:41 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 20:40

Your Full Name:

Kent Newsam

Email Address:

kentnewsam@hotmail.com

Subject Line:

Committee Rules

Your Comment:

I'm writing concerning how business will be conducted in committees. In the interest of accountability and transparency, the idea that the chair person alone would decide which bills would be heard in a committee goes against democratic principles. It's important we know that our representatives are truly representing their constituents. If my representative brings a bill to a committee I want to know that the bill was heard and the committee's decision. Given the current situation with the pandemic I'd also want the rules committee to create a safe environment by enacting safety guidelines that ensure you can conduct the business of the state in a way that won't further spread the virus; practice social distancing, wear a mask, disinfect your hands. Thanks for your consideration.

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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 20:39

Your Full Name:

Lynn Peterson-Maher

Email Address:

themahers@earthlink.net

Subject Line:

Vote against HR1

Your Comment:

Please vote against HR1 as amended by HR101ATE

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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 20:06

Your Full Name:

Tim Nielson

Email Address:

tim.nielson0@gmail.com

Subject Line:

vote against HR1 as amended by HR101ATE

Your Comment:

As we all say, we are opposed to tyranny, and if so we must all oppose limiting discourse to only one side of arguments. I oppose giving absolute power over bills being heard to committee chairs. And I appeal to our shared belief in individual freedom, because we are all minorities at some point in our day. All Montanans deserve to have our voice heard, and we all count, no matter which party is in power. I recognize that I write this as members of the majority party in Montana seek to limit democracy in the country, perhaps overthrow it, to achieve their ends.

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Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:03 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 20:03

Your Full Name:

Denise Manning

Email Address:

manning.family221@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Safe Legislative Session

Your Comment:

Please require masks for our sessions. We want to keep legislators, staff and citizens safe while in Helena. As many local communities have done, I urge you to provide a virtual option to testify . Montana has had over 70,000 Covid cases and right now 17,000 active ones state wide. Preventing further spread is in the best interest for Montanans and for our economy. I have a niece in her 30s who has been very ill for 12 days with Covid. She was very healthy and fit. I hope she will be again. Too many people have personal stories and losses to share. Help stop the spread! Keep our Montana Government and state safe! Require masks and social distancing while in session. Denise Manning

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