

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 5:17 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 17:16

Your Full Name:

Duane Catlett

Email Address:

djcatlett@bresnan.net

Subject Line:

Comments for the Joint Rules Committee Meeting December 7, 2020:

Your Comment:

Dear Committee Members, Montana is one of the states expected to be hard hit by the virus this winter and spring. I recognize the importance of the work that the Legislature will be doing on our behalf. It is critical to the state that you have the ability to conduct the state's business effectively. Although it is always better to have personal contact with your colleagues as you have in the past, we are unusual times and fortunately technology has provided an effective and efficient tool to allow the legislature to conduct its business in a safe manner virtually. For the sake of your colleagues and the citizens of Helena, I'm asking that you follow the guidelines of the Lewis and Clark County Health Board that you hold your sessions virtually. Thank you very much for your consideration. Sincerely, Duane Catlett Bozeman, MT

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 7, 2020 4:42 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 16:42

Your Full Name:

Julia Shaida

Email Address:

juliashaida1@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Legislative session

Your Comment:

Given the skyrocketing numbers of covid cases in our state, the legislative session should be held virtually. We must protect the vulnerable and do all we can to not overload our hospitals and healthcare staff.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

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Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 4:23 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 16:23

Your Full Name:

Linda Cox

Email Address:

garlin@bresnan.net

Subject Line:

legislative session

Your Comment:

Please show leadership and wisdom by holding the upcoming legislative session virtually. Honoring CDC guidelines is an essential part of ending the pandemic. The citizens of Montana will 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: 7th December 2020 16:21

Your Full Name:

Jamie Anesi

Email Address:

jamieanesi@gmail.com

Subject Line:

In person Legislative Session

Your Comment:

As a Helena community member, I have serious concerns about have an n person legislative session in our town. I have family members that are considered high risk for catching COVID and I worry that having legislators from all over the state, many whom don't follow the mask mandate, will increase our community spread and put our families, friends, hospitals and schools at risk. As a former downtown business owner of The Lotus Studio, that lost my business due to the pandemic, I would never advocate to put our community at risk in this way even if it meant a temporary boost in economy. Please do not put our community at risk with an in person legislative session.

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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: 7th December 2020 15:52

Your Full Name:

Rebecca Stanfel

Email Address:

rebecca.stanfel@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Please do not meet in person

Your Comment:

I urge you NOT to conduct meetings indoors during this legislative session. Whether or not you believe Covid-19 is a risk to yourself, please think of the many people in Helena and your home communities for whom this disease can be fatal. I am one of them. I am severely immunocompromised from chemotherapy and have an underlying respiratory disease. I do not go out into the world, but my son and husband must. They could catch Covid from one of you and transmit it to me before they even knew they had symptoms. Please listen to the many doctors and public health experts on this. Do the right thing! Please!!

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Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 15:51

Your Full Name:

Amy Hetzler

Email Address:

ajhetzler@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Virtual legislative session

Your Comment:

Please make the 2021 legislative session all Virtual! 1) safety, 2) we can do it. 3) more people from ALL parts of the state can participate. 4) at least make it a hybrid of virtual/in person.

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: 7th December 2020 15:41

Your Full Name:
Suzanne Vernon

Email Address:
zanne.vernon@gmail.com

Subject Line:
Virtual meetings

Your Comment:
Please post virtual meetings online so constituents can stay informed. Thank you.

Upload Written Testimony:
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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 15:31

Your Full Name:
Kathy A. van Hook

Email Address:
kathyvanhook@yahoo.com

Subject Line:
Meet remotely or wear masks, please

Your Comment:
The COVID rates in Helena are already high. Please don't add more cases to our community. My partner and I are 75 and most at risk for consequences of the virus. Please think of OTHERS! Thank you.

Upload Written Testimony:
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To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
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Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 15:28

Your Full Name:

William Johns

Email Address:

wrj.msu@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Joint rule committee

Your Comment:

Hello, I am writing to express my support for holding this coming session remotely. Holding an in person session or any in person meetings at this time would be a reckless disregard for the safety of our elected officials, their staffs, and their families. It would also disrespect and dishonor the hard working healthcare professionals who would be placed at additional risks. We must do everything we can in order to prevent further transition of covid19 in the state. Holding the legislative session remotely is safer and kinder for the people involved and everyone who might come in contact with them. William

Upload Written Testimony:

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To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
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Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 15:26

Your Full Name:
Noreen Breeding

Email Address:
rog7nor@gmail.com

Subject Line:
Virtual meetings of the Legislature

Your Comment:

The entire Legislature should meet virtually in order to follow the rules issued by national and local public health experts to protect all citizens from COVID-19. It has been proven that people infected by the coronavirus, even if they show no symptoms or have been vaccinated, can infect others. Personal responsibility means doing the utmost to avoid infecting others and spreading the virus. It means meeting virtually so that all legislators, staff, and the public can participate without risk of being infected. COVID-19 is real and life threatening. Even people recovered from an infection can suffer lifelong handicaps. The legislature needs to take protecting the health of all Montanans seriously. If large numbers of legislators fall ill, hospitals no longer have the capacity to treat them and the legislative session will be totally disordered.

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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: 7th December 2020 14:30

Your Full Name:

Laura Fox

Email Address:

lafox50@msn.com

Subject Line:

Protecting Helena

Your Comment:

Please either meet remotely or, if not, wear masks. If you don't believe in the science of mask wearing or trying to make a political statement, please stay home. 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: 7th December 2020 14:19

Your Full Name:

Grace Hodges

Email Address:

grace.hodges@charter.net

Subject Line:

Please do not meet in person this Session

Your Comment:

The Montana Legislature should not risk the lives of people in Lewis and Clark county and in their own counties with an in-person session. We're working over zoom and going to school over zoom; you can legislate over zoom. We're heading into the most dangerous time of the pandemic, and need our legislators to respect public safety.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 14:12

Your Full Name:

Damion s Lynn

Email Address:

lynn.damions@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Upcoming Session

Your Comment:

Dear Committee Members, The COVID-19 pandemic is wreaking havoc on Montana, however, there is light at the end of the tunnel, but it will not arrive before January 4, 2021. For the sake of your health, the health of your colleagues, the health of staff members, and the health of your constituents, please follow the recommendations of the Lewis & Clark County Board of Health and other government officials and either hold the session virtually or delay the start. I understand that significant work has gone into creating ways that the business of the people can all be conducted virtually. We live in the 21st century, and we have the tools and technology at our fingertips that make holding this session virtually quite easy. Let's show how innovative Montanans are by using technology to safely hold the 2021 Montana Legislature. Thank you for your time,

Upload Written Testimony:

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Date: 7th December 2020 14:12

Your Full Name:

Angie Leprohon

Email Address:

aleprohon@mt.net

Subject Line:

Covid-19 Mask requirement

Your Comment:

I urge you to either meet remotely or require participants to wear a mask. Masks have been scientifically proven to protect both the person wearing the mask and the people they come in contact with. It effects all of us, not only those who are actively participating in the legislature.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 14:08

Your Full Name:
Norman Bishop

Email Address:
nabishop@q.com

Subject Line:
Health of legislators

Your Comment:
I hope the legislature will meet virtually. If not that, then with strict requirement for social distancing and mandatory wearing of masks.

Upload Written Testimony:
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Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 13:55

Your Full Name:

Sarah Fitzgerald

Email Address:

sarahfitz@hotmail.com

Subject Line:

Legislative Session

Your Comment:

Hello- Dropping a note to express my support for a virtual or delayed legislative session. Please follow the recommendations of public health professionals who are urging virtual or a delayed session. Thank you.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 13:46

Your Full Name:

Ann Brodsky

Email Address:

abrodsky@mt.net

Subject Line:

wearing masks

Your Comment:

Helena has proudly been Montana's capitol since statehood. Helenans get many economic advantages in being the seat of government, particularly when the Legislature comes to town every other year. Legislators rent rooms and homes, dine out, and otherwise participate in the economic activity of Helena. This year, an influx of legislators will not serve the health of this community well. More people temporarily residing here who work in close quarters is anathema to protecting the health of this community. I ask that the Legislature work remotely to the extent possible. To the extent legislators meet in person, for the sake of my community, my friends, my family, myself, and - last but certainly not least -- our health care system - please do not be cavalier about masks. Please show leadership and respect by wearing masks and insisting that anyone partaking in legislative work wear masks at all times when in the company of anyone else besides their own family or small "bubble." This is not a joke. COVID numbers in Helena are already high, and our community is greatly concerned about the increase in numbers that is bound to occur if and when legislators arrive to do the people's work.

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 13:37

Your Full Name:

April Verboven

Email Address:

wickedwoolies@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Virtual Legislature

Your Comment:

Joint Rules Committee of the Montana Legislature Members, Public health officials have asked that the 2021 MT Legislature be held virtually for the health and well-being of legislators, staff, advocates, and the public. I strongly support this measure. I believe much can be accomplished with all of our technologies and that many people will be spared exposure, sickness and the Ben death with a remote session. Times are tough and we must adapt to keep communities safe. Thank you.

Upload Written Testimony:

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 13:30

Your Full Name:

Donna Hilyard

Email Address:

hilyard@nemont.net

Subject Line:

conducting the upcoming legislative session

Your Comment:

I believe that to have an all in-person legislative session starting in January 2021 is irresponsible. It has been proven for over 8 months that work can be completed via virtual platforms. If grade school children can learn to do coursework and classes remotely, there is no reason presumed intelligent adults cannot conduct the upcoming legislative session remotely. It would seem many legislators don't believe it's important to do what they can to try to cut down on the spread of covid-19. I suspect that the medical community, that is under great strain and stress in many communities across our great state, would urge the Montana legislature to meet remotely, or to postpone the legislative session until a vaccine is readily available and all who care to have received it. Please, consider the health of your fellow Montanans, and our great health care workers, and do the responsible thing and meet remotely or postpone the legislative session.

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 13:21

Your Full Name:

Tom Woods

Email Address:

tomwoods4mt@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Process

Your Comment:

I'd like to participate

Upload Written Testimony:

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 13:19

Your Full Name:

Alicia Pichette

Email Address:

Aliciapichette@yahoo.com

Subject Line:

Safe Session

Your Comment:

Please assure that members and staff at the upcoming legislative session adhere to Lewis and Clark county health officer recommendations for wearing masks, social distance, and as much as possible attending the session remotely. If not, our community is in danger of becoming the state's covid hotspot during the session. Thank you for your consideration.

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 13:17

Your Full Name:

Carolyn Boyd

Email Address:

boyd.berg@msn.com

Subject Line:

please meet virtually

Your Comment:

I am hoping that the legislature will meet virtually for this session. With the high numbers of Covid in our state, legislators are at risk of contacting the virus or bringing it to Helena and spreading it to others. It may be inconvenient, but it is safe and models for all Montanans that we need to be very cautious at this time.

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 13:14

Your Full Name:
Patricia Simmons

Email Address:
psimmons100@gmail.com

Subject Line:
COVID - Legislative Session

Your Comment:

My preference for my health as a 74 year female is that you delay the Legislative Session until the vaccine is being put in people's arms in Montana - at least cover older, pre-condition people like me. Second choice is holding it virtual. I want to be able to protest, make testimony, provide information to Legislators on a variety of issues important to me and all Montanans!

Upload Written Testimony:

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Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 13:07

Your Full Name:

Karrie Taggart

Email Address:

hobnob03@yahoo.com

Subject Line:

I support 2021 Montana Legislature hold sessions virtually

Your Comment:

It would be a great way to start a new year by having our legislature hold 2021 sessions virtually so that transparency is held to a higher level and the health and well-being of everyone is taken into account at the same time. Since many have already learned how to use Zoom, Google Meets, etc. it shouldn't be difficult for this type of conferencing to be utilized. Maybe have a certain number of people who can attend in person, with all safety guidelines followed, while others can attend via teleconferencing.

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