

Fox, Susan

From: Elise Austin <mtngirl406@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:00 PM
To: Fox, Susan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rulemaking comments

Good morning,

Last summer, my 36 year old husband died in a twilight car accident while stopping for milk. He was an excellent driver, the kind who could safely tow a loaded horse trailer down Stemple Pass in a snowstorm. But that night he was tired, and he made a mistake that continues to ripple through our lives. Our oldest child hadn't even started kindergarten. 1Every day I'm reminded how important one life -- just one -- is to the people around it.

I'd like to remind you all that some mistakes have lasting consequences.

This week, coronavirus became the leading cause of death in the United States.*

We have 6 months to go before vaccines can make a difference. The past 6 months have showed us that a lot can go sideways in that amount of time.

This rulemaking is a chance to make smart decisions for the families you serve. Here in Montana we all rely on people. We lean on a chain of strong, hardworking folks to make our communities thrive. We're linked.

Most of us are the type of folks who would stop for a fellow Montanan stuck in a snowy ditch. This year, the ditch is a pandemic, and we're all stuck, together. Being heroic now isn't about carrying chains and a shovel. It's a boring version of heroism we need, one where we bring our best thinking and wear an uncomfortable face mask, day after long day. But just because it's boring doesn't mean it's not crucial. Heroes get that name because they persevere even when the job is boring, or hard, or uncomfortable.

I urge you to learn. Learn what our rural hospitals are saying. Learn what airborne transmission is, and what universities and health departments say can slow it. And then be heroes.

Do it because up to 5 out of 10 people with COVID-19, show no symptoms. But they can still spread it.*

Do it because our businesses can't bounce back properly while this pandemic continues.

Do it because, even if death hasn't visited your family this year, it's already in the houses of your constituents.

I live every day with the consequences of unexpected death, and I promise it's not something to wish on a neighbor. Please help Montanans survive this year. Wear a mask. Find ways to avoid crowds. Use your power to improve this situation, even if it means experiencing some personal discomfort. Be the heroes we need so that we can all get out of this ditch ASAP.

Thank you,

Elise Austin
N Montana Avenue
Helena 59602
475-0455

* <https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20201206/covid-passes-heart-disease-as-top-u-s-killer> [webmd.com]

<https://www.uhealth.org/today/the-truth-about-asymptomatic-spread-of-covid-19/> [uhealth.org]

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 11:25 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 9th December 2020 11:24

Your Full Name:

Mary Coar

Email Address:

marycoar@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Coivid-19 precautions

Your Comment:

Please follow CDC and Lewis and Clark City County Public Health Department recommendations for preventing and limiting the spread of Covid-19 when deciding how to hold the current legislative session. To not follow public health recommendations is nothing other than reckless behavior.

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: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 9th December 2020 10:51

Your Full Name:

Dick Barrett

Email Address:

rnewbar@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Masking and social distancing

Your Comment:

If the legislature is decides to hold in person meetings which staff are required to attend or which provide the only opportunity for public comment, then members have a duty to wear masks and maintain appropriate social distance. The evidence that taking these measures reduces transmission is incontrovertible. Any legislator who refuses to take these elementary steps to avoid the risk of infecting others, particularly those who cannot avoid contact, is being personally irresponsible. If legislators refuse to wear masks, staff should refuse to attend them.

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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: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 9:57 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 9th December 2020 09:56

Your Full Name:

Julie Stetson

Email Address:

hatchick18@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Virtual legislative session

Your Comment:

Please do not hold an in-person legislative session this year. Helena's hospital and health care workers are positively overwhelmed with Covid cases. We don't have the resources to care for legislators from out of town, either as Covid patients or in case they have other medical needs. We also don't have extra resources to care for our own citizens if they should fall ill unnecessarily due to the irresponsibility of Montanans coming in from outside of the county. Helenans are Montanans. Not one Montana life should be endangered for the sake of an in-person session.

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

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 9:29 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 9th December 2020 09:28

Your Full Name:
Deidre McMullin

Email Address:
deidremcmullin@outlook.com

Subject Line:
virtual options for legislators and public participation

Your Comment:
Please ensure that those people who do not feel comfortable being at the Legislature in person during the Covid pandemic are able to participate through virtual options. Not doing so will be harmful to our democracy.

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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: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 9:12 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 9th December 2020 09:12

Your Full Name:

Susan Plath

Email Address:

plathstravels@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Meeting of the Legislature

Your Comment:

I tested positive for Covid on October 22. Today I suffer from lingering fatigue, brain fog, headaches, and a persistent cough. Please take Covid seriously. I ask that you meet virtually this year. It is only one year! The consequences of meeting in person places so many at risk. I was a healthy person who takes no medication, was active, and involved in my community. Now, I can't even work 4 hours a day. This is devastating. Please meet virtually.

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