

Submission re:**Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022**

Name: Hannah Slater

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Dear Committee

I wish to note my **STRONG** objection to the extension of emergency powers of the QLD Government for the following reasons:-

- The threat of COVID-19 to lives has dramatically decreased over the last 3 or so months, it is no longer an extremely deadly virus, in fact most people only suffer mild symptoms as advised by the QLD Government.
- Lockdowns have done more harm than good to communities – we have seen small businesses take huge hits and even have to close their doors because they can not get patrons through the door
- Vaccination mandates have done absolutely nothing to stop the spread of Omicron – vaccinated or not, people are getting and spreading COVID-19 with little no difference in symptoms from the vaccinated to the unvaccinated.
- Vaccination mandates have done more harm than good to communities – we have seen small businesses take huge hits and even have to close their doors because they can not get patrons through the door and have lost so much business because they can not allow people who have not received a COVID-19 vaccination on their premises without fear of crippling fines and government action.
- I would like to note that I have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine but I am extremely hesitant to receive a booster dose because of the threat of being removed from society and not allowed to do basic things like go out for a coffee with friends. I have friends who have chosen not to receive the COVID-19 vaccination and have been denied health care from their regular doctors as a result as well as not being able to step foot in cafes, restaurants, pubs etc. I am extremely fearful of the precedent that vaccination mandates have set for the future of our state and country and this is the item of the most concern to me. People should be allowed to assess the risk for themselves and be able to freely decide on their own medical choices without intimidation or fear of not be allowed access to basic human rights.
- If we are "to learn to live with this virus" as the Government continues to exclaim, then we as citizens of Queensland should be allowed to do just that without imposed Government rules which no longer serve as protective measures for the community. We now know what we are dealing with and the virus is indeed downgrading in pandemic status to being very close to endemic – there is just no need for an extension to Government powers which have

left people feeling isolated, in financial hardship (after losing jobs because of vaccination mandates or businesses having to close due to the affects of lockdowns etc).

I implore the committee and Government to please allow the expiry of the emergency powers – they will only serve to further the Government's power and remove the rights of citizens of our great state. This is a terrifying time to be living in with what feels like medical apartheid – I am all for vaccinations to prevent disease but I am also all for people being allowed to make these decisions freely without fear of losing their livelihood or way of life. I beg the Government to not move forward with this bill. I am a young woman under 30 years of age and I am terrified of the precedent that this sets for my future and the future of my friends and family.