

4 March 2022

Committee Secretary Community Support and Services Committee Email:
cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

RE: PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2022 (BILL)

I wish to formally advise that I **do not** support the Bill nor the extension of the state of emergency (SOE).

It has been two years now that the state of Queensland has had to live under these measures and now is a time to start returning to normalcy. Many countries, states and provinces around the world are now winding down their mandates and emergency measures as they understand that Covid-19 is endemic and they understand that we need to learn to live with it.

The government has sacrificed the wellbeing of the individual for the good of the community but we must not forget that the community is comprised of individuals; individuals who are continually being sacrificed in the name of public health policy. An extension of these emergency powers appears more about holding on to an accumulation of power than it does about sensible public health policy.

Whilst giving the benefit of the doubt to the government and granting them these extraordinary powers initially, two long years have lapsed which has seen the decimation of the State's economy and small businesses, loss of jobs, dismantling of social cohesion and family bonds, isolation of the vulnerable and a growing distrust in our institutions. It's time to heal this state and our society and move forward.

It is clear that the reason for issuing a SOE was based on false modelling of deaths by the Imperial College of London which never eventuated. Under the SOE basic democratic principles and rights have been frozen. We have lost the right to freedom of movement, the right to work, the right to medical privacy, bodily autonomy and freedom of conscience. Our social interactions are now clouded with suspicion and fear.

Some things are clear and known:

- There was a clear miscalculation in the predicting of the severity of Covid-19.
- Covid-19 deaths have been grossly overreported by our governing health bodies such as the TGA in Australia and CDC in America.
- Healthy people with no co-morbidities have a 99.7% chance of surviving Covid-19 if infected and are at low risk of medical complication.
- The vaccines do not prevent transmission or acquisition of the virus and the limited immunity is short lived. It is purely a private medical intervention.
- Natural immunity is proven to be longer lasting and more robust against future infection.
- There are proven ways to naturally boost your immune system to lessen the severity of a Covid-19 infection (what the vaccines are only capable of doing), yet the government is not espousing this.
- Healthy people do not spread the disease.
- There are proven, safe and effective medical interventions that can be administered to treat Covid-19 infections which do not require vaccination but are being ignored by our government.

Under the SOE we have seen the implementation of government-backed discrimination and division against Queenslanders who have chosen to not take experimental vaccines that have no long-term trial data or safety data.

Personally, my brother had a severe adverse reaction from the vaccine affecting his heart which was officially recognised but he would not be granted a long-term exemption. For this, he had to walk away from his teaching profession because he rightly reasoned the risk benefit was no longer in his favour. How long will the government allow highly trained individuals to be sidelined from health, education, emergency services and other valuable sectors because they chose not to comply with a medical experiment. ? This is a time when we need these people the most.

Under the SOE the Government has aided in coercing individuals to take these experimental medical procedures under threat of loss of employment, restriction of movement and access to services and businesses. This contravenes basic human right principles, codes and conventions. One Labor politician for my electorate who I was conversing with regarding the necessity of vaccine mandates wrote to me personally saying that "I can choose to not get the vaccine, but there will be negative consequence to my actions." The Government has practiced extreme prejudice, discrimination and vilification of those who have enacted their right to choose whether or not they want to participate in a medical experiment, blatantly ignoring all aspects of bioethics. Government led coercion goes against all basic tenets of medical ethics, particularly when dealing with a medical experiment. We cannot forget that we are still in the trial phase of these vaccines. *Where there is risk there must be choice.* Some principles cannot be sidestepped and to do so is immoral.

This state has experienced some of the worst flooding seen in a long time, affecting businesses and families. People are hurting. The people of this state need hope that things will return to a sense of normalcy. A continuation of the state of emergency at this point appears more about retaining the powers and control gained over Queenslanders since the start of the pandemic, rather than managing a crisis with reason, logic and rationality. Unlike the flood, we are no longer in a state of sudden and urgent circumstances. We know what we are dealing with.

If these SOE measures are continued I will not vote for any politician or party who have backed this bill. People will not forget and those who choose to continue these measures will be held accountable and voted out of power.

Yours Sincerely,

Pasquale Heredia

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