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**From:** Michelle Butler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 3 March 2022 1:44 PM  
**To:** Community Support and Services Committee  
**Subject:** Any extension to Emergency Powers is unjustified at this time

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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**Categories:** Submission

Dear Community Support & Services Committee,

I am writing to you to in response to the *Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022* and to put in writing my strong objection to any extension to the state of emergency due to the following facts:

- The prevalence of the Omicron variant and its extremely low death rate compared to the Delta/Alpha variants;
- The fact that the original Emergency Bill was granted based on the death rate from the Alpha and Delta variants - which is now irrelevant;
- Recent statements and evidence communicated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) stating that those original estimates were substantially overinflated;
- The fact that any extension of emergency powers is based on COVID deaths and COVID numbers in Queensland of which the ABS data is now showing the exaggeration of such data; and
- Current estimates indicate that Omicron deaths are only a very small fraction of those adjusted numbers.

In summary, any extension of Queensland's emergency powers is not warranted and should **not** be granted.

The potential for continued discrimination via these emergency powers is unacceptable to any democratic society and it is time to apply the appropriate scrutiny whereby all legislation should be subjected to, and even more so at a time such as this where Queenslanders and Queensland small businesses are being unnecessarily compromised.

Regards

Michelle Butler  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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