

HB2048
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Opponent Testimony
House Judiciary

The current state of emergency disaster declaration is a dangerous and harmful precedent in the use of Emergency Management principles. I disagree that we should be in a state of emergency disaster and am an opponent on that basis.

The following is part of Ronald Reagan's 1964, "A Time For Choosing" speech.

it seems impossible to legitimately debate the issues of the day without being subjected to name-calling and the application of. It's time we asked ourselves if we still know the freedoms intended for us by the Founding Fathers. James Madison said, "We base all our experiments on the capacity of mankind for self-government." This idea that government was beholden to the people, that it had no other source of power except the sovereign people, is still the newest, most unique idea in all the long history of man's relation to man. But today we are told we must choose between a left and right or, as others suggest, a third alternative, a kind of safe middle ground. I suggest to you there is no left or right, only an up or down. Up to the maximum of individual freedom consistent with law and order, or down to the ant heap of totalitarianism; and regardless of their humanitarian purpose those who would sacrifice freedom for security have, whether they know it or not, chosen this downward path. I for one find it disturbing when a representative refers to the free men and women of this country as the masses, but beyond this the full power of centralized government was the very thing the Founding Fathers sought to minimize. They knew you don't control things; you can't control the economy without controlling people. So we have come to a time for choosing. Either we accept the responsibility for our own destiny, or we abandon the American Revolution and confess that an intellectual belief in a far-distant capitol can plan our lives for us better than we can plan them ourselves. Already the hour is late. Government has laid its hand on health, housing, farming, industry, commerce, education, and, to an ever-increasing degree, interferes with the people's right to know. Government tends to grow; government programs take on weight and momentum, as public servants say, always with the best of intentions, "What greater service we could render if only we had a little more money and a little more power." Someplace a perversion has taken place. Our natural unalienable rights are

now presumed to be a dispensation of government, divisible by a vote of the majority. The greatest good for the greatest number is a high-sounding phrase but contrary to the very basis of our nation, unless it is accompanied by recognition that we have certain rights which cannot be infringed upon, even if the individual stands outvoted by all of his fellow citizens. Without this recognition, majority rule is nothing more than mob rule. It matters little that you hold the title to your property or business if government can dictate policy and procedure and holds life and death power over your business. If some among you fear taking a stand because you are afraid of reprisals from customers, clients, or even government, recognize that you are just feeding the crocodile hoping he'll eat you last. We are being asked to buy our safety from the threat by selling into slavery our fellow human beings. Admittedly there is a risk in any course- End

The process by state and county governments in the response to a novel strain of coronavirus is making a mockery of the rule of law and the principles of individual liberty this Republic was founded on. It is being carried out in an arbitrary and capricious nature that picks economic winners and losers and is inconsistent in its application and enforcement causing confusion and delay. When representatives in the government choose not to follow our agreed upon rules and chooses to abdicate duly elected authority we have lost our way.

Things may get a lot worse considering the average American's diet, coupled with a sedentary and stressful/divisive lifestyle. One little cold of any kind, and BOOM, you're dead. Does that mean we abandon the Constitution to flatten the curve of resource utilization and staffing issues to keep people alive regardless of quality of life? What does that mean in this context? Could it be that life was just extended rather than saved? Executive orders that are used for stopping the spread are, at the very least technically, and most importantly constitutionally, are not feasible. Also, let us not forget about the principles in the Declaration of Independence which say the individual not the mass is to be defended.

The unintended consequences of economic social, emotional, spiritual and mental harm that the response to this novel virus has caused will be studied for years. Do not be a statistic of tyrants and slaves. Free men fight free until labeled a threat by those who choose to label themselves. This current poisonous fruit from a poisonous tree is being used as a mechanism to produce behavior change that is disproportionate to the threat of a 1.1%

death rate, and poses a greater threat to our Republic, our state, our counties, our cities, our families and each individual citizen. I therefore implore you to make informed decisions based not on fear of what could happen, and partial data that is being withheld, altered and manipulated, and always err on the side of individual liberty.

Perpetual crisis is only good for government and those the government allows in its plunder.

What are the criteria for the state of emergency disaster declaration to be over?

Thank you for your indulgence of this patchwork testimony, I look forward to the deeper dive.

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/behind-times/pandemics-now-and-then>

https://www.who.int/csr/disease/coronavirus_infections/update_20121130/en/

<https://governor.kansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020-03-12-Proclamation.pdf>

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