



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
BRIAN HARRISON

DISTRICT 10

[DELIVERED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL]

14 January 2022

Dear Governor Abbott:

I write with appreciation for the unique challenges you confronted in leading our great state through the COVID-19 pandemic. As someone who helped oversee the federal government's response as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the first year and who worked with you and your team on multiple occasions during that time, I am aware of the complex decisions you had to make with limited and evolving information.

I was also on White House calls with you and our other nation's governors and know the lockdown pressure you experienced from the Vice President's Task Force. So, as a Texan, I was proud to see you reject extended lockdowns, open Texas up earlier than most other states, and thankful you used your authority to fight harmful COVID-19 mandates. I also continue to praise your repeated demands that the legislature do its job by passing a comprehensive ban on liberty-destroying and medically indefensible COVID-19 mandates.

While I helped coordinate the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and believe we were right to declare it then, I have publicly called for the Biden Administration to end it because it can no longer be justified on public health grounds and because perpetual emergency declarations – and accompanying executive powers - are antithetical to representative government.

I also believe you were correct to declare an emergency in early 2020. However, it has now been over 1000 days that Texas has existed under that declared state of emergency, while the vast majority of other states have ended theirs.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the overwhelming majority of our counties are at community levels "low or medium," and, unlike when the emergency declarations were initially declared, we now have a full suite of medical countermeasures such as vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics. These facts, along with sufficient capacity in our world class health care facilities make the almost undeniable case that Texas is no longer under an "emergency" by any definition contemplated by Texas statutes.

Therefore, I respectfully ask that you do not renew Texas's COVID-19 Disaster Declaration and that you continue applying pressure to those of us in the legislature to pass laws to protect the medical freedom of our citizens from harmful COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

For liberty,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Harrison", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Harrison