

I, Melyssa Howry, a resident of New Town, North Dakota, fully support this resolution. I have heard the governor and his staff speak on this subject and why they believe there should still be a state of emergency. However, I respectfully disagree with their position. This virus is not going to disappear. It will join the many thousands of other viruses we currently experience and come in contact with on a regular basis. I understand that this one is particularly dangerous for a certain group of individuals. Now that there is a plan in place to deal with this virus, it is time to move forward with life. The measures put into place are destroying our economy, and along with it, the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of thousands of people in our state alone, not to mention the rest of the country. Enough is enough. The suffering from these continued emergency orders and measures will far outweigh the suffering that Covid-19 has caused. I ask that you take a moment to consider how "Two weeks to slow the spread" turned into nearly a year of mitigation. And all we have to show for it is a growing collection of data that shows that regardless of what measures we take, or how careful we are, this virus has done what all other viruses have always done..."run its course". We cannot stop viruses. What we CAN do is control our own health, and the choices that we make about our own bodies. But we must stop expecting people to be responsible for the health of others. That can only come from lifestyle choices and healthy habits. To me, that is a true health emergency in our state and in our country. Those are the real causes for severe Covid disease and even death. Why are we not addressing the root cause of the "underlying conditions" that took the lives of the vast majority of Covid patients? Wouldn't our time, energy, and resources be better used to promote health and nutrition, to prevent serious illness from ANY cause, not just one specific virus?

To conclude, I ask that this resolution be passed and that we take real steps to address the long-term health issues in our state. Let us begin by allowing healthy people to return to moving freely among society, and encouraging those who are less healthy to take steps in their own lives to improve upon their situations. Thank you for reading!