

27 April 2020

Dear Assembly Members, Mayor and Mr. Hagerman,

Once again I am writing to you in opposition of the newly proposed Mandate #7, yet another blatant overreach of governmental power. Let me explain why.

1. Early models of the trajectory that this virus *should have taken* have proven wrong: from numbers of hospital beds needed in both large and small cities across the US, to numbers of deaths projected from the virus, to the number of respirators needed. (30,000 were ordered, only 5,000 actually used in New York City.). Consult the real-time data on this and from those working in front line care to see accurate data.
2. If an individual is symptomatic, awaiting testing or results from their covid-19 test, it is that person's responsibility to stay home, not the government's job to either force or provide shelter for them or their family. Do you really think that someone will voluntarily even choose to be tested for FEAR that they will be forced to quarantine in some government-sponsored housing?
3. For those on the front lines, it would seem that they have already chosen to zero in on their best lines of defense weeks ago and have NOT waited for the government to provide their quarantine resources.

Regarding the homeless, we always have had and will always have in society, those who live without permanent shelter (would that we could permanently help them to be self-sufficient). Organizations already have operations in place (even in Petersburg) to care for those who need (and will accept) help until they get back on their feet. This mandate addresses "non-congregate shelter" but again, let the government *stay out* and let these organizations work together to help people keep their distance.

The homeless are a vulnerable group for many reasons. This mandated isolation will almost guarantee additional societal problems such as child, sexual and other domestic abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, suicide, and other violent crimes. Make no mistake of the consequences of yet another *mandate*.

4. When the government says that they want to keep their citizens 'safe,' it is another way of saying they want to control the populace: *they* know what's best, *they* have all the answers. No thank you.

Sincerely,
Donna Marsh

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfLVxx_IBLU&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2MhgHlz23KLQjFZh7Gr527ViKMG2nQ7A2eEVI8wViL-daLGntZoX_B2zs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb6j7o1pLBw>

<https://komonews.com/news/coronavirus/new-models-show-social-distancing-making-positive-impact-in-washington-state>