

Report on the 2020 Session

Safer At Work

Friends and Neighbors,

Safer at Work. This week Weld County instituted what they call a "Safer at Work" policy, as opposed to Governor Polis's "Safer at Home" policy. Simply stated, it allows the citizens to make their own choices, use their own common sense, in determining whether or not it is safe for them to go back to work or to open their businesses back up. Although the plan didn't set very well with the Governor's office, I think that's where the entire state (and nation) should be headed. I don't deny that there was reason originally to "get a handle" on the pandemic by forcing businesses to temporarily close their doors. But that's been over a month ago now, and the idea that the Governor (or anybody else) should be able to pick and choose which businesses are "allowed" to reopen and which aren't is ludicrous. Just as the government can't force a business to operate, it can't force them to stay closed. Not in America anyway.

In my Op Ed a couple of weeks ago I mentioned that I thought the death rate from Covid 19 has been way overstated. Here's what I meant by that. There are two factors at play:

1. Studies are showing that there are vast numbers of people who were apparently infected with the virus way before we even knew what it was. Some studies are showing that the number of people who have already had the disease (and probably didn't even know it) is as many as 50 to 85 times the number of confirmed cases. As of this writing, there have been 13,879 cases in Colorado and 706 deaths from it. If you go on the conservative side of the studies and multiply the number of cases by 50, that makes 693,950 cases (and still 706 deaths). That moves the morbidity rate to 0.1% (lower than the flu).

I have talked to several people in eastern Colorado who are convinced, as am I, that the virus made its way through our area in January, before we knew what it was. School censuses were way down, clinics were full, lots of people had what they thought to be an extra bad cold or case of the flu. Some tested positive for Influenza, some didn't. Most didn't even go to the doctor. But they all talk about how it was different than anything they'd ever had. I'm convinced this explains at least part of the reason why eastern Colorado has been spared the last couple of months.

2. In addition to the morbidity rate going down by simply changing the denominator in the equation, the CDC has instructed medical personnel to record a death as being from Covid 19 if they can find a trace of the virus in the body, or even if they have been exposed to someone who is known to have had it. That means that if someone has Covid 19, but they also have influenza, heart disease, pulmonary issues, drug overdose, Stage 4 cancer, ANYTHING, the cause of death will be reported as Covid 19 rather than the underlying (or perhaps even unrelated) illness. Doesn't sound very factual or very scientific to me.

As I said, I don't deny that there may have been a reason for the government-ordered shutdown a month ago, but that time is over. People MUST be allowed to go back to work in order to preserve their emotional, psychological and financial security. The American people are good people; we are willing to sacrifice for the greater good – but now the greater good is to let people get back to work. The sooner the better.

Faithfully,

Representative Rod Pelton

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