

Report on the 2020 Session

REPRESENTATIVE ROD
PELTON

Friends and Neighbors,

Once again we find ourselves staring down another executive order from the Governor that is a one-size-fits-all policy; time and time again, during the Governor's mishandling of the Covid-19 outbreak in Colorado, the Governor has said that he will not take action that would overstep local control and then 3 days later took that action and attempted to implement a state-wide policy that ignored the fact that Denver is quite different than the Eastern plains of Colorado.

As a staunch advocate for local control I will always decry actions of this magnitude that have blatant disregard for the differences among all the counties and regions of our remarkably diverse state. What is right for the Metro area and what is right for rural Colorado is often not the same and the elected officials who can best determine what is best for their counties are those officials that spend everyday in their communities; those officials, whose friends, families, and neighbors are their constituents can best make the decisions for mask mandates, stay home orders, and countless other decisions that the Governor has made that have toppled the economy of the state and the livelihood of countless individuals around Colorado.

I would like to say that myself and my office have fielded many calls regarding this matter and I would like to share with everyone what the Republican caucus and I are doing in response to the overreach by the Governor, once again. First, the Republican caucus has written and sent a letter to the Governor unequivocally denouncing this mandate and expressing the grave concerns that we have as individuals and as representatives of the people of our districts over the unconstitutionality of this dramatic measure; beyond the unconstitutional nature of the matter, the scientific community has not unequivocally stated that masks prevent the spread of the virus outright, and the World Health Organization stated that the masks do nothing to prevent transmission. Second, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, Representative Patrick Neville, has stated that he is retaining counsel and will be filing a lawsuit against the Governor over this action. Finally, many County Sheriffs have explicitly stated that they will not be enforcing the mask mandate in their counties and will continue to leave the decision to wear or not wear a mask up to each and every individual. I cannot commend these actions enough. It is clear that in order for local control to exist, it is the local officials who must be the strongest advocates and blatantly say no to overreaching Governors.

Unfortunately, we have little ability to push legislation through to reign in the Governor's overbearing policies at this time, as the Republican's are in the minority in both chambers of the legislature, and the Democrats have shown that they will not support measures put forth for this purpose. This is where it becomes critical that on election day, we are able to balance the power by leveling the party balance in the House and taking back the Senate. In order to do this, I implore everyone to vote for Republican legislators in November and to encourage your friends and families that are spread around the many districts of the Colorado to do the same.

Faithfully,

Representative Rod Pelton



House District 65

Cheyenne, Kit Carson, Logan,
Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Yuma

(303)866-3706

Rod.Pelton.CO@gmail.com

Office:

1525 Sherman St.

Suite 644

Denver, CO 80203

Mailing Address:

Representative Rod Pelton

200 E Colfax Ave

Room 307

Denver, CO 80203