

To whom it may concern:

My name is Sheldon Howell. I have been asked to write a personal testimony illustrating my feelings and firsthand experience regarding the Covid-19 “pandemic”.

I own and operate multiple businesses in the Wichita area, two of which are the Wichita Parisi Speed School and Kansas Collegiate League Baseball. Additionally, I own three collegiate summer baseball teams: Park City Rangers, Valley Center Mud Daubers, McPherson Pipeliners. All of these businesses are centered around sports and the families of those athletes.

Each of my businesses has been directly affected by the decisions Governor Kelley made and the response that both state and local officials have taken. Initially, the message delivered to our area explained that the purpose of the shutdown was to “flatten the curve”. This decision logistically made sense. We wanted to make sure that our community didn't over run a healthcare system that was not prepared for the magnitude of influx we “might” see. So even though that was a stretch, because the projections were vastly overstated and incorrect, I could understand the reasoning and decided to shut down my businesses as directed. As of today, in my opinion, this has turned to something different. Currently the message is to fund more testing, locate a vaccine, or even better, a cure. All of these objectives are not attainable in the foreseeable future.

With the information that medical staff is gaining from current tests, the data is moving in the opposite direction. The fatality rate is dropping, the “infection” rate is ever changing based off of the model size, so it is impossible to track. At some point in time logic has to take over. We can not continue to move the phases around based off a different reasoning each time. The reality is, the threat of this virus will be here forever. Vaccine or not, this will not change the danger. Destroying the economy is a grave threat to the greater population than this virus could ever be. I challenge anyone reading this to take a look at the number of violence in your area over the time of the pandemic, I promise it has doubled and even tripled in some areas.

To pick and choose which type of business can open again is wrong. It is unconstitutional. All businesses are essential to the people running them, the families relying on them, and the customers who need/want them. To not allow all businesses the same chance to open and follow the new guidelines, whether they are “lawful” ones or not, isn't right. This is an abuse of power on the part of governor and our executive branch in Kansas.

To say I am embarrassed to be an American is an understatement. The fact that ‘We The People’ surrendered our rights and freedoms because of mass media and tyrannical powers is devastating. There has to be a line drawn in the sand at some point. Our hospitals are not being overran. Actually not even close to it. For it to take people this long to wake up and understand that we need to take our government back, and remind them that the people are the power in this great country.

I opened my business on May 4<sup>th</sup> against the governor’s orders and will not close again unless I feel that it is necessary for me. My baseball league and teams were forced to cancel because of the state the Governor and her decisions are leaving the public perception. We rely on kids traveling and coming to our great state to play in the summer time. Since the Governor has continued to portray our situation, and change phases, and not be open and honest with the people it has caused us to close those four organizations for the year.

The moment this switched from health and safety to political gain is the moment we should have stopped listening to Governor Kelly.