

SB 14

Katy Reinecker

January 19, 2020

Opponent

House Judiciary

Chairman: Rep. Fred Patton

My primary objection to the continuation of the State of Emergency Disaster Declaration is that there is no clearly defined criteria for its expiration. According to SB 14, the declaration has been extended at least seven times already. I have asked numerous people at varying levels of government what the criteria is for the expiration of this State of Emergency, and no one seems to have an answer. Is it number of cases? Is it number of deaths? Is it hospitalization rate? Is it vaccination rate? There is no quantifiable measurement in your bill stating, "If we get to this, then this." Who is to say that on March 31st, the legislature won't find that we need to extend it again? The goal posts continue to be moved, and without defined criteria for its expiration, they almost certainly will be moved again. The people of Kansas are tired of living like this. "Two weeks to flatten the curve" has turned into nearly a year of failing businesses, failing students, and a cloud of mental illness that hovers over the state. If the healthcare system/judicial system/legislative branch did not use these months to prepare for the eventual expiration of the state of emergency, then shame on them. We should not be forced to continue with the state of emergency without criteria which has been defined that will end the disaster declaration.

Thank you,

Katy Reinecker

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