

North Carolina General Assembly

House of Representatives

State Legislatilee Building

Raleigh 27601-1096

March 7, 2022

Governor Roy Cooper 20301 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Cooper,

March 10th marks two years since you issued <u>Executive Order No. 116</u> to unilaterally put the citizens of North Carolina under a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

After two years of executive orders that shut down businesses, restricted gatherings, closed schools, and mandated masks, the people of North Carolina are more than ready to move on.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently <u>announced</u> it is dropping universal indoor mask recommendations, and school districts and local governments across our state are ending their mask mandates.

Furthermore, new cases have <u>plummeted</u> in the past month — from a 7-day average of approximately 22,000 a month ago to approximately 3,000. <u>Hospitalizations are down</u> from 5,089 a month ago to 1,618. As these key metrics continue to fall and vaccines remain readily available to those who want one, there is no justification for a continued state of emergency.

Simply put, there is no emergency. Yet, there is still no plan or exit strategy set forth by your Administration outlining how and when the nearly-two-year state of emergency can be lifted.

The people of North Carolina should not have to live under the continued threat and uncertainty of new emergency executive actions and restrictions that have severely impacted and limited their lives for the past two years.

We urge you to immediately end your emergency order and allow our state to move forward.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Majority Leader John Bell

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Speaker Tim Moore

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Rep. Jon Hardister



Rep. Kelly Hastings

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Rep. Phil Shepard



Rep. Carson Smith



Rep. Sarah Stevens



Rep. Larry Strickland



Rep. John Szoka



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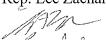
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