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Civil liberties must be protected in Emergency Powers Legislation!

There is NO preservation of civil rights in [SB633](#), the Public Health Emergency Act, sponsored by Senator Jay Costa (D), which grants the state **unprecedented police-state-like powers in a declared emergency**. No public input would be allowed in the suspension of current regulations and promulgation of new ones. Health officials and public health workers would be granted both power and complete immunity to “*administer, ...prophylaxis or treatment for a reportable disease or condition as necessary to prevent and control the spread of disease or condition.*”

This bill has **NO restrictions on the “as necessary”** provision. There are **no** safeguards against forced internment, mandatory drugging, or forced vaccination with fast-tracked, liability-free vaccines.

Extremely troubling findings¹ during animal testing halted previous attempts to develop a vaccine for other dangerous coronaviruses (SARS² and MERS³). Problems included liver and lung reactions and, astonishingly, pathogenic priming causing *increased* susceptibility to the virus.

Regardless of the seriousness of COVID-19, or any other future outbreak, the limitations of science and medicine mean that the state cannot and should not supersede bodily autonomy.

Self-quarantine or isolation must always be an option to any vaccination program.

Balance Public Health Concerns with Protecting Bodily Autonomy

Legislation should provide clear directions and protect the rights of citizens. The [Connecticut Public Health Emergency Response Act](#)⁴ is a comprehensive law that balances public health concerns while protecting civil liberties. **Any emergency response legislation must:**

- Provide detailed direction regarding quarantine, including that “quarantine and isolation shall be by the **least restrictive means necessary** to prevent the spread of a communicable disease...” (Sec. 19a-131b)
- Require that residents be informed of **option to refuse vaccination** or medication for any reason. Require parental consent for any treatment or isolation for minors under 18 years.
- Ensure quarantine or isolation as an alternative to vaccination orders. (Sec. 19a-1312e)
- Restrict use of emergency power to address only public health threats that carry clear imminent risk of statistically significant mortality or long-term disability. (Sec. 19a-131)
- Define reasonable actions in case of outbreaks and quarantines.

Since 1681, Pennsylvanians have valued their civil and religious liberties. Don't give additional authority to the state which will remain long after COVID-19 fades.

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4550498/>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22536382/>

³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27269431>

⁴ https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/pub/chap_368a.htm#sec_19a-131