



## PLATTE COUNTY NEWS

January 26, 2020

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### UNHEALTHY LEGISLATION IN JEFFERSON CITY

A bill has been introduced in the Missouri Legislature that would eliminate the ability of local health departments, county commissions, and school districts to require face coverings to prevent the spread of a contagious disease. It also prohibits requiring businesses, churches and other entities to follow recommendations to prevent the spread of a contagious disease. Health departments would be able to make recommendations but not impose any penalty for not following the recommendations.

HB566 was introduced by J. Eggleston who represents House District 002, which is located to the northeast of Platte County.

The bill also prevents an employer from requiring employees to wear face coverings to prevent the spread of a contagious disease.

Our Health Department exists to protect our health, including taking action to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. If approved, this bill will limit or eliminate their ability to fulfill that responsibility.

Similar bills were filed this year because of the politicization of the COVID-19 pandemic. Let your representative know that you prefer decisions affecting your health to be based on science, not party politics.

Read a summary of the proposed bill  
at: <https://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills211/sumpdf/HB0566I.pdf>

## **MORE UNHEALTHY LEGISLATION**

As referenced above, anti-health authority Bills SB 12, SB 20, SB 21, SB 31, SB 56, SB 67, SB 68 were recently heard in the Senate Health and Pensions Committee in Jefferson City. The bills were all presented and then the committee took testimony for the bills together at the same time.

The bills all have the effect of limiting the authority of local health departments to issue orders or restrictions to limit the spread of contagious diseases. Some restrict the amount of time that an order can in place while other bills require approval of the local governing body (Platte County Commissioners) or the Missouri State Legislature.

So, rather than require that orders be based on established scientific evidence, or on recommendations of the Center for Disease Control, the intent is to place politicians in charge of our health. This is not a good idea.

You can read the bills by searching at this site: <https://www.house.mo.gov/billcentral.aspx>

## **I AM A CANDIDATE FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT TRUSTEE**

Recognizing that there would be attempts to strip authority from the Platte County Health Department, I decided to run for an open Trustee position on the Board of Trustees of the department. The position was recently created when a trustee resigned. Under state law, the Platte County Commissioners can appoint a trustee to serve until the next election. The Commissioners appointed someone who also filed to run for the position.

This person was appointed by Commissioners who tried to strip authority away from the Health Department and give it to themselves. They are the same Commissioners who withheld CARES grant funding from the Health Department, school districts, and cities but gave millions to business friends. Frankly, I do not trust them.

If I am elected to the position, I will work to ensure Health Department decisions and operations are based on established medical and scientific principles. This is a nonpartisan position because politics has no role in the Health Department. Delivery of services needs to be fair and equitable. Restaurant owners, for example, should be treated the same during inspections regardless of their political party affiliation or "who they know".

I ask for your support and your vote on April 6.

Thank you.

David Park