

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

We write to you today with utmost concern regarding the current direction of the State of California. Since March 4th, 2020, there has been a declared state of emergency in California, after you issued an emergency declaration to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, which at the time was still in its early stages. This order is set to expire on March 31st, 2022. Much was still unknown about the severity and transmissibility of the coronavirus at the time the initial state of emergency was enacted, and public health messaging and guidelines were mixed, prompting bipartisan support of a temporary state of emergency to deal with the then-unknown challenges facing the state.

More than 700 days later, after the production and distribution of three different COVID-19 vaccines, a significant reduction in the mortality of the disease, and the lifting of lockdowns and mask mandates across much of the nation, California is still under a state of emergency. States of emergency serve legitimate needs in our state government's response to threats of the highest order. It is critical that governors do not cheapen this political tool and undermine the faith of our citizens by unreasonably extending emergency powers that sidestep the constitutional role of the California State Legislature simply for political convenience.

States of emergency are designed to empower the state government to act unilaterally for the welfare of our citizens when a threat is too great or unknown for more specialized jurisdictions to handle on their own. This is what prompted every state in the United States to initially enact a state of emergency during the nascent stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, when information was still scarce, and jurisdictions lacked supplies to tackle a growing number of severe COVID-19 cases. Since then, resources, stockpiles, and treatments to combat COVID-19 are now readily available in every corner of the country. Other Democrat-controlled states, such as Colorado and New Jersey, have let their states of emergency expire.

The time for these emergency powers to end is now. California has no lockdown orders in place, and you have recently rescinded the statewide mask mandate that was in effect the past two months. Citizens across our state and across our nation have returned to normalcy. It is time that the government of California do the same. Accordingly, we are calling on you to end the state of emergency in California and restore to the California Legislature the powers that have been delegated to them in the state constitution. The rescission of the emergency declaration must come as soon as possible to return our state to its normal system of government after nearly two years of extended emergency powers.

Sincerely,



Mike Garcia
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress