



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

May 4, 2020

The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General of the United States
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington D.C. 20530

Attorney General Barr,

We extend our sincere gratitude to you for your April 27, 2020 memorandum to the Department of Justice. That communication serves as a welcome and timely reminder that elected officials should be monitored to ensure they continue to respect the American system of government and the constitutional protections afforded every citizen even in times of crisis.

We write today to bring your attention to certain policies implemented by Connecticut's Governor, Ned Lamont, by executive order in response to public health concerns related to COVID-19. We fully recognize the many unknowns that existed just over a month ago and the need for reasonable executive action in the face of a potentially devastating public health emergency. However, we are deeply concerned that Governor Lamont has exceeded his executive authority in violation of both the Connecticut and United States Constitutions, and continues to implement similar policies without authority or justifiable cause.

For your reference, below is an abridged list of specific concerns followed by a supplemental addendum page with citations.

As of today, Governor Lamont has:

1. Drawn an arbitrary distinction between "essential" and "non-essential" businesses, forcing thousands of Connecticut companies to close or severely limit their ability to engage in commerce, and causing immeasurable damage to our states economic viability. This order, infringes on a citizen's right to equal protection and private property in conflict with the 5th and 14th amendments to our US Constitution.
2. Denied Connecticut citizens their right to assemble by forbidding gatherings of five or more persons, raising 1st amendment concerns respecting assembly and religion.
3. Interfered with the ability of citizen's right to private contracts in conflict with Article I, Section 10, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution by the creation of a "rental assistance program" that altered private rental agreements between adult citizens.
4. Established a 50 person board of unelected persons from CT and surrounding states, "Reopen CT," to make public policy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic absent any legislative involvement or input.
5. Infringed on a citizen's ability to purchase a firearm or ammunition by diminishing access to retailers and background check procedures, in conflict with the 2nd amendment.

We appreciate your time and attention to our concerns and stand ready to support you and your staff if you need any further information from Connecticut.

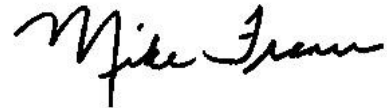
Respectfully,



State Senator Rob Sampson
16th District



State Senator Eric Berthel
32nd District



State Representative Mike France
42nd District




State Representative Gale Mastrofrancesco
80th District



State Representative David Wilson
66th District



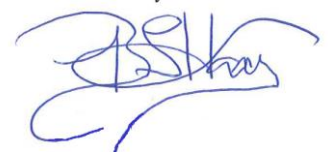
State Representative Joe Polletta
68th District



State Representative Craig Fishbein
90th District



State Representative Anne Dauphinais
44th District



State Representative Rick Hayes
51st District



State Representative John Fusco
81st District



State Representative Doug Dubitsky
47th District



State Representative Brian Lanoue
45th District

**ADDENDUM -
CT Letter to AG Barr**

1. Executive orders that affect the rights to equal protection and private property (5th and 14th Amendments)

April 17, 2020: [Executive Order 7BB](#) (public face coverings)

April 14, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7Z](#) (security officers and businesses)

April 10, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7X](#) (Extends all business closures to May 20, 2020, deferral of rental payments)

April 7, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7V](#) (Safe Workplace Rules for Essential Employers defined by the [Department of Economic & Community Development](#))

April 2, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7T](#) (Hotels, short-term rentals; restaurants, bars and private clubs clarifications)

April 1, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7S](#) (Safe Stores Rules for retail including grocery stores)

March 31, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7R](#) (Curbside pickup of alcoholic beverages permitted at grocery stores/package stores)

March 26, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7N](#) (eating establishments, retail, firearms & ammunition stores, grocery stores)

March 22, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7J](#) (all non-essential businesses clarifications)

March 20, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7H](#) (all non-essential businesses)

March 19, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7G](#) (barbershops, hair salons, nail salons, tattoo and piercing parlors, & modifications to restaurant/bar orders)

March 18, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7F](#) (malls, amusement parks, zoos, arcades, bowling alleys)

March 16, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7D](#) (restaurants, bars, casinos and gambling facilities, gyms, sporting events, entertainment, movie theaters)

March 12, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7](#) (gatherings over 250, recreation, sporting)

2. Executive Orders affecting the right to assemble and free exercise of religion (1st Amendment)

March 31, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7R](#) (State Parks and Forests)

March 26, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7N](#) (Gatherings over 5 people)

March 12, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7](#) (gatherings over 250, recreation, sporting)

3. Executive Order impacting private contracts (Article I, Section 10, Clause 1, U.S. Constitution)

April 10, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7X](#) (residential renters)

4. Press release announcing the creation of the [Reopen CT Advisory Board](#) (Article I, Section 10, U.S. Constitution)

5. Executive Orders impacting the process of obtaining a gun permit (2nd Amendment)

March 26, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7N](#) (Requirement of firearms transactions by appointment only)

March 17, 2020: [Executive Order No. 7E](#) (Suspending fingerprinting at Police Departments)