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My name is Diana Albanese and I'm from southern Maine.

Our state of Maine has suffered so much through this lock down because of the draconian rules put on the people and businesses of Maine. It has been over a year and we have seen so many negative impacts because of the overreach of power by Gov. Mills. We have seen businesses suffer and many businesses shut down forever, which means families who lose their source of income, both business owners and employees. We see Maine people lose the businesses they would benefit from. We have seen people with disabilities discriminated towards because they could not wear a mask and were told that they would get "reasonable accommodations," only to end up not getting the accommodations they were told they would get, or having accommodations that definitely were not reasonable. We have seen people barred from their places of worship. We have seen people not be allowed into hospitals even if it were to see their dying loved one or see their new son or daughter being born. We have seen children and adults committing suicide at a higher rate. We've seen more homelessness, homicide, domestic abuse, hunger, overdoses, and drug and alcohol addiction. We've seen children suffer with schooling at home, and parents struggling to support their children through this pseudo schooling. We've seen parents struggle to pay for child care while the parents have to go to work because the kids can't be watched over as they normally would in a school. We have seen people not working for over a year. We have seen healthcare workers being beaten around and told they could only work at one facility in a period of time, vastly exacerbating our shortage of vital healthcare workers in the state and putting far more strain on our healthcare workers. We've seen people not go in for screenings, emergencies, check ups, etc at the hospitals and doctor's offices because of the shut down, and as a result have seen people suffer illnesses, diseases, and even deaths that could have otherwise been prevented. While Maine media and government has been constantly showing/covering covid cases, rarely do we see facts and stats on other kinds of diseases, illnesses, negative incidences, and other things that negatively impact a large percentage of Maine people, many on the rise as a direct result of the overreaching shutdowns that we've seen for over a year, brought on by too much power given to the governor alone and our government in general.

All of this and much, much more has resulted from the overreaching shut down by our unchecked governor. As someone who works in healthcare and who is a part of a family that owns a long standing business in Maine, I believe there needs to be an act to amend the governor's emergency powers to allow Less power to the governor. After all, not too many years ago when another deadly virus was going around the nation, Janet Mills herself said to the governor at the time that he had no right to force even One person who had possible exposure to the deadly virus to quarantine for two weeks. Fast forward to today and Gov. Mills forcing over a million people into shut down and quarantine rules, in dictatorial fashion. People of Maine need to be able to see In Detail what the governor is spending on everything and have a larger say in the budget, especially in times of a "state of emergency." If not, it opens a huge avenue for abuse of power. Our governor can (and has) used this "state of emergency" to push through a massive, overly expensive, unpopular budget without having to show the people of Maine what is really going on and how they are irresponsibly spending so many tax dollars from hard working Mainers. Our state can't afford to waste more tax dollars while also not knowing where those tax dollars are going. There needs to be far more transparency and more say by the people of Maine.

For the good of the people of Maine and everywhere -

This bill Ought to Pass.