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In response to the call to testimony for the Monday, March 29th State and Local Government Committee session.

First let me open by showing the definition of a Dictator

dic-ta-tor

noun

1. a ruler with total power over a country, typically one who has obtained control by force.

o a person who behaves in an autocratic way.

o (in ancient Rome) a chief magistrate with absolute power, appointed in an emergency.

Some key points of this definition go against our Republic. One is the term Ruler. The next is the phrase Total Power. And another point is that part of this definition address an Ancient way of doing things versus the modern model of what the United States of America and all of its freedoms, checks, and balances stand for.

The handling of this so-called “emergency” (which in and of itself is Highly Debatable) by Janet Mills is not only atrocious behavior but I believe borders on blatant criminal behavior. To invoke emergency powers merely because of party lines and not real life statistics and facts was wrong. Locking out the Legislative Branch of our government was wrong. Putting a suggestion box on her door and not answering calls or emails from the Legislatures was WRONG!

Countless protests, car caravans, emails, and social media posts have been expended by the Citizens of this State and they have all fallen on the deaf ears of Janet Mills. And during part of that time, Speaker of the House Gideon was more worried about advancing her political career on the national level than doing the right thing and stepping in for the people of Maine by telling Mills her actions were wrong. She could have easily done that by calling the Legislature back in session but instead she both didn't care and just fell along the sickening party line.

You ask how this has impacted me. Dictator Mills has severely hampered my retirement years and mental health. I retired and spent the Summer of 2019 traveling around our beautiful State. Hiking, seeing waterfalls, trying every restaurant and brewery that sounded good, going to the State Parks, riding a motorcycle, and then into winter where I tried snowmobiling for the first time among other winter fun.

Then suddenly our world seemed to come to an end because of a virus that was only affecting a tiny percentage of our State (by your own statistics) and has a 99% recovery rate! The impact I've seen on businesses and friends is gut wrenching. Businesses I Want to be in business but have closed permanently makes me mad. The political strife, the useless masks, the illegal shut down and limitations on so many activities. It's maddening. Even now, some businesses are open but let me relate two small examples of the continued frustration and sheer inconvenience. When you are gone from home all day to run necessary errands and shopping you're usually at least 30-60 minutes away from home. Are you supposed to pee behind someone's building because they won't allow you to use their restroom?! Even outdoor activities are a no go. We rode our motorcycle 2 hours away to enjoy the scenery and the coast when Dictator Mills “allowed” State Parks to reopen the great wide outdoors last summer. Again, can my wife and I expect to be gone from home the entire day without a restroom? The bathrooms at the park were locked with your stupid covid nonsense sign on the door! So we went to town, stopped at two gas stations who wouldn't allow us, and then found a grocery store before we could finally use a restroom! So what is the solution? You stay home. It's too much of hassle to go anywhere. Then the longer you're home the more mad and depressed you become. For the first time in my entire life I participated in one of the car caravans around the Capital building but I would bet that Janet Mills was not even there and certainly didn't care. This has to stop.

It should absolutely be illegal to shut out the Legislative Branch of our government in any way, shape, or form either legally or illegally. As a citizen of this State, I am demanding that this change. No Governor should ever be allowed to become a Dictator again. Rules need to be changed. The laws need to be changed. And provisions need to be put in place in clear and concise wording that would Remove a Governor from office should this ever happen again. Laws such as the Speaker of the House should not be of the same party affiliation as the Governor. The Legislature should reconvene if just one Representative or Senator feels it necessary. During any state of emergency, the Legislature should be required to be involved so the Governor is not allowed to have sole authority. And other measures to ensure for evermore that

this State is never fully taken over by one particular power hungry Governor or Party.
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