Liz Terwilliger for Congress
A Representative, Not A Politician

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We can maintain our civil liberties in the midst of a public health crisis.

I believe in individual freedoms. I also believe in civic duty and acting responsibly for the common good. These two things are not mutually exclusive.

The public, every person, needs information they can trust about how they should behave in the current crisis. Staying home as much as possible, exercising safe (6 feet) social distance, frequent hand washing and cleaning surfaces in common areas are the basics of what we need to do. (For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

We do not need Government mandates to close businesses. We need business owners to make plans to keep themselves, their employees and their customers safe. This will look different for every business. For mine it means telemedicine. For others it might mean drive through service, staggered shifts and/or signage and reorganizing space to facilitate social distancing. For some, they will simply have to close if they cannot reasonably keep their employees and/or customers safe.

No reasonable business owner wants to put their customers at risk. If we have the resources to enforce closure mandates with fines, license removal, etc., then we have the resources to instead reach out to business owners to ensure they have a plan. And if need be, to help them to develop one. There are already laws against knowingly and willfully endangering others. We don't need to erode the civil liberties of everyone to address the willful disregard that would be shown by a few.

We don't know how long this crisis will end. We cannot shut down our economy indefinitely. We cannot abandon our Constitutional rights indefinitely. Better to educate, reach out and support each other than to create fear and panic with overreaching Government mandates.

-Liz Terwilliger, speech pathologist and Libertarian, for Congress