



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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GOVERNOR

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LANSING

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LT. GOVERNOR

March 24, 2021

Michigan Senate
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

SENATE ENROLLING
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Senators,

Today I am returning Enrolled Senate Bill 1 of 2021 to you without my approval. I initially outlined the reasons for rejecting this legislation in my veto letter regarding the nearly identical Enrolled Senate Bill 1253 of 2020, also sponsored by Senator Theis.

My number one priority has always been the safety and wellbeing of the people of Michigan. The pandemic has been hard on all of us. Our administration has stayed focused on doing the right things: acting decisively, following the science, and listening to the experts. Our actions have helped get the pandemic under control and rebuild the economy – but there's still more work to do. We need to keep doing what needs to be done so we can return to a strong economy and normal day-to-day activities.

Following the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic, the Legislature granted the then-equivalent of the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services broad power to issue orders to contain and eradicate epidemics. In the course of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of those orders has likely saved many thousands of lives.

This bill would create a 28-day limit on epidemic orders. Unfortunately, epidemics are not limited to 28 days. We should not so limit our ability to respond to them. Therefore, I am vetoing SB 1.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor