



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Joseph Chaplik (R-3)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Legislature Sends Resolution to Voters to Set Reasonable Limits on Governor's Emergency Powers

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – The Arizona State Legislature has approved [HCR 2039](#), sponsored by State Representative Joseph Chaplik, which refers a proposition to the ballot that constitutionally terminates any emergency powers granted to the Governor during a state of emergency 30 days after the proclamation, unless extended by the Legislature, and outlines exceptions to the automatic termination. It also requires the Governor to promptly call a special session upon the presentation of a petition bearing the signature of at least one-third of each house of the Legislature.

Statement from Representative Chaplik:

“Just over three years and three months ago, the Governor of Arizona first declared a state of emergency for COVID-19. It was finally terminated last year, having lasted 750 days. Arizona wasn’t unique, as governors across this country were ruling by executive order during this time for far longer than the promised 15 days that people were told would be needed to ‘stop and slow the spread.’

“Businesses were shut down, with many having never recovered to this day. People were put masks, kids were kept out of schools, and families were barred from visiting loved ones who laid dying in hospitals. And, in some places, individuals were prevented from exercising their fundamental freedom of religion. This sort of executive rule without any oversight should never happen again.

“That’s why House Concurrent Resolution 2039 was introduced. It’s a solution, not just to what happened in COVID lockdowns, but as the proper policy for handling all state emergencies.”

Following its approval by the Legislature, the resolution was transmitted to the Secretary of State, who is required to submit the proposition to the voters at the next general election.

Joseph Chaplik is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 3, which includes Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, and the Northeast Valley in Maricopa County. Follow him on Twitter at @JosephChaplik.

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