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NEW HOUSE REPUBLICANS INTRODUCE RESOLUTION TO RESTORE POWER TO THE PEOPLE

St. Paul – Today, the members of the New House Republican Caucus introduced a resolution to end the Governor’s peacetime emergency declaration. The resolution will put an end to the executive orders that Governor Tim Walz has issued to this point. In turn, the resolution will allow elected members of the Minnesota Legislature to vote on what rules, orders, or policy should be put in place to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This is a question of constitutional process,” said Rep. Cal Bahr (Republican-East Bethel). “The Governor’s thirty-day peacetime emergency order has come to an end. Now, the Minnesota Legislature should decide what executive orders should be codified, and which should not. Our constitution entrusts the co-equal branches of government to make decisions, not the Governor alone. Our institutions are strong enough to handle this crisis.”

“The Governor’s executive orders were well intentioned and designed to protect public health. We commend him for that,” said Rep. Tim Miller (Republican-Prinsburg). “However, the long-term use of these executive orders, and the social isolation they create, has caused harmful unintended consequences. What was good policy many weeks ago has now created heavy burdens for many people. Minnesotans are entitled to weigh in on the Governor’s actions.”

Additionally, the resolution will allow the Minnesota Legislature to strike a proper balance between protecting public health and revitalizing a slowing economy.

“The Governor’s executive orders have already upended our state’s economy,” said Rep. Steve Drazkowski (Republican-Mazeppa). “While they were intended to save lives, they have destroyed livelihoods. Businesses have shut down permanently, record numbers of people have filed for unemployment, and those trends will only worsen if we stay on the current path. I fear

that the Governor's actions have created a recession. The Governor should not be allowed to steamroll the economy without the consent of the people."

"The Minnesota Legislature still has a month to meet, debate, and vote on the proper COVID-19 response," said Rep. Jeremy Munson (Republican-Lake Crystal). "This legislature has already appropriated \$519,120,000 to hospitals, medical professionals, first responders, and others to combat this disease. Now the legislature must make decisions on what sectors of the economy should be responsibly reopened. Elected officials have had enough time to examine the data and statistics surrounding COVID-19. We must use what we have learned in the preceding weeks to move forward responsibly. The time has come for the people's house to reflect the voice of the people."

In order to bring the resolution before the full Minnesota House of Representatives for a vote, the Minnesota House must first declare an urgency to take up the resolution. This declaration of an urgency requires an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Minnesota House. "We are asking all legislators to support this resolution and let the legislature fulfill its constitutional role," said Rep. Munson. "A vote to block this resolution is a vote to silence the people's house."

The NHRC is led by Rep. Steve Drazkowski (Republican-Mazeppa). It includes Rep. Cal Bahr (Republican-East Bethel), Rep. Tim Miller (Republican-Prinsburg), and Rep. Jeremy Munson (Republican-Lake Crystal).

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