

## Emergency Declarations

Emergency Declarations: Economic Destruction Put In Place By The Governor

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Michigan, the Great Lakes State and the Winter Wonderland, has turned greatly from those beautiful scenes into the Economically Destroyed State and the Outrageous Unemployment. During the Covid-19 pandemic which reached the State of Michigan on March 10, 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer has introduced over 140 executive orders, bringing an unnecessary economic hardship upon the entire state. An executive order is defined as an order that “may reorganize agencies within the executive branch of state government, reassign functions among executive branch agencies, create temporary agencies, establish an advisory body, commission, or task force, proclaim or end an emergency, or reduce expenditures authorized by appropriations.” according to Michigan.gov in 2021. The orders put into place in the state of Michigan are unnecessary because many states did not have nearly the amount of emergency declarations as Michigan and there is no measured difference in Covid-19 cases. However, there is a major difference in their economy. The executive orders closed down countless businesses, left innumerable people unemployed, and led Michigan into economic distress that will take an incredible amount of time to recover from. Paul Gardner stated in the article titled *Forecasts say Michigan’s economy will still be recovering in 2023*, published by Bridge Michigan, that “the state’s rebound likely won’t follow the extremes seen during the Great Recession.” These orders mandated that restaurants, gyms, movie theaters, and numerous other small businesses close their doors resulting in approximately “32% of Michigan businesses to close at least temporarily” according to Bruce Walker in the article *Pandemic lockdown closed 32% of Michigan businesses, highest of all states in U.S.* written on December 16, 2020. This number is higher than any other state in the nation. The unemployment rate in Michigan currently stands at an astronomical 8.2%, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, leaving it with only six states having worse unemployment. This is unheard of for the once

flourishing Michigan economy. These unprecedented actions that Governor Gretchen Whitmer took in response to the Covid-19 eruption have left commercial enterprises bound by law to close, unemployment rates at an unheard-of number, and Michigan with a piteous economy.

The big red letters spelling the word “closed” are far too common on the doors of businesses throughout Michigan, as this state faces an outrageous amount of businesses closing. The businesses were bound by law to close their doors as, “Michigan’s Department of Health and Human Services instituted the three-week prohibition on indoor gatherings of 10 people or more on Nov. 15 and extended those rules until Dec. 20. Businesses caught violating DHHS rules may be subjected to fines of \$1,000 a day” from the article written by Bruce Walker as previously cited. Governor Gretchen Whitmer appointed Elizabeth Hertel as Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and stands by as she allows 32% of businesses to remain unopened. While it is said that these businesses are only forced to temporarily close their doors, many of the business owners are unable to maintain their facility and still obtain the amount of funds that would be needed to reopen. Many of these businesses have changed their signs from “closed” to “for sale.” The economic devastation of this is unmeasurable, because never before has such extreme measures been taken. Many individuals agree that these obscure orders have outlived their usefulness, but Gov. Whitmer stated that “These rules are not optional. They will be enforced.” The effects of the total businesses closed by Gov. Whitmer has already had an immense impact on the economy of Michigan and will continue to affect the state for many years to come.

Michiganders have always strived to maintain a beautiful state with many opportunities for all individuals. During the Covid-19 pandemic Michigan now ranks 7th in unemployment nationwide. Michigan's unemployment rate in December of 2020 is 8.2%. The unemployment

rates have reached historical levels, because never before were this many businesses mandated to close. According to Caleb Buhs as stated in the article *Michigan's unemployment rate increases to historic level in April as a result of COVID-19-related layoffs* published on May 20, 2020 by Michigan.gov “The large monthly unemployment rate advance reflected a continuing and deepening of the pandemic’s impact on the workforce,” suggesting that this historically poor unemployment is due to the excessive orders that Governor Gretchen Whitmer placed on businesses and individuals in Michigan. From the Executive Order 2020-4 “I [Gretchen Whitmer] issued Executive Order 2020-4. This order declared a state of emergency across the state of Michigan under section 1 of article 5 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963” later in this order it states, “Acting under the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and Michigan law, I [Gretchen Whitmer] order the following: 1. This order must be construed broadly to prohibit in-person work that is not necessary to sustain or protect life.” This executive order has led to a massive increase in unemployment and the trend is continuing as businesses remain closed. The issue is that this is not needed. Other states such as South Dakota which never mandated businesses to close or people to not work, are experiencing the opposite of Michigan. Their unemployment rates are lower than before the Covid-19 pandemic. South Dakota currently has the lowest unemployment rate at only 3.3%, again from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. If Governor Gretchen Whitmer would allow people to resume work while taking proper and appropriate precautions, Michigan would not be on the bottom of the list for unemployment and the economy would not be in such a dire situation.

Economic damage to Michigan is immeasurable due to the unprecedented mandatory measures taken by our governor. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation has developed a five-year plan written in light of Covid-19 to regain Michigan's economy. Their

Mission is “Achieve long-term economic prosperity for Michiganders by investing in communities, enabling the growth of good jobs, and promoting Michigan’s strong image worldwide. “It should be noted that Michigan is simply trying to retain its pre-pandemic economy. An economy that was disintegrated by the executive orders of Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Although it is stated that this is a five-year plan, it will take far longer than five years to fully recover from the economic hardship placed upon Michigan in the form of unnecessary emergency mandates. It is known that Michigan’s economy is suffering more than most states. This is due to the fact that extreme, and completely avoidable, measures were taken that were not established in other states. This left other states with far less economical damage than Michigan. Michiganders are now facing years of economic hardship due to the outrageous emergency declarations.

The once prospering economy of Michigan has fallen apart, leaving this state with nothing but hope for the future. While coming up on a year since the first two cases of Covid-19 were confirmed, this state has made a sore turn for the worse. Michigan's Governor, Gretchen Whitmer, has come out with over 140 executive orders that closed down the economy leaving it in ruins. With the unemployment rate at never before seen levels, due to the closing of 32% of Michigan's businesses, this is a problem that will not evaporate easily. Michigan must come together in order to regain the same level of economic prosperity before Covid-19 was introduced. Businesses need to be opened. Individuals need to resume working. Michigan's economy needs to change for the better. Michigan's Future Inc. said that their goal is, “A high prosperity for Michigan. A place with a per capita income consistently above the national average in both expansions and contractions.” If this goal were to be regained, people were to be reemployed, and businesses were opened, the economy of Michigan would not be facing such

extreme hardship. These executive orders that were put in place by Governor Gretchen Whitmer were completely preventable. Meaning that the economical destruction that Michigan is facing was also completely avoidable. Whitmer stated herself, "People want leaders they can look up to, who can solve problems and actually deliver results for our people" and she would be correct. Michiganders do want a leader to solve problems, and mandating business to close causing unemployment rates to skyrocket is not a solution. Michigan needs to regain its claim to our beautiful Great Lakes State and Winter Wonderland, without the burden of economic hardship.

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