

# ANNIE GRAM

Annie Black | Nevada State Assemblywoman  
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November 23, 2020

Hon. Jason Frierson  
Speaker, Nevada State Assembly  
7925 W. Russell Road, #400187  
Las Vegas, NV 89140-8009

Dear Speaker Frierson,

As a newly-elected independent member of the Nevada Legislature, I am writing today to request that you join me in calling for a Special Session to deal with the ongoing COVID-19 virus situation.

As [explained](#) on “The People’s Branch of Government’s” website, “the Legislature may, upon a petition signed by two-thirds of the members elected to each house of the Legislature, convene a special session for a specific purpose without action by the Governor.”

I ask that such a Special Session be convened for the purpose of addressing two main areas of concern...

- 1.) Reviewing and limiting the governor’s ability to continually extend his “emergency” powers without consultation with and approval by the full Nevada Legislature, and...
- 2.) Reviewing and taking immediate steps to mitigate the ongoing and growing budget crisis

Nevada is now in its 9<sup>th</sup> month operating under “emergency” gubernatorial orders, and on Sunday the governor issued a new three-week “pause” which is, in reality, a modified shutdown.

This new order will inevitably lead to more Nevadans being put out of work even as our state suffers the second highest level of unemployment in the country and thousands of workers are still battling to get the unemployment benefits they applied for last March.

To be clear, while I question the effectiveness, fairness and constitutionality of a number of the governor's decisions, my primary concern is the imposition of such orders without the concurrence and approval of the elected members of the Legislature, an equal branch of government.

No chief executive should be extended such unlimited authoritarian powers with no expiration date. Elected members of the Legislature, who are closest to the people they represent in a wide variety of different communities and circumstances, must be involved in these decisions.

Secondly, Gov. Sisolak's new "pause" order will only exacerbate the ongoing budget crisis. It was recently reported that the governor has ordered his various departments to prepare for budget cuts of 12 percent.

The longer we wait, the more painful such cuts are going to be. As such, the Legislature should consider implementing immediate cuts to non-essential government spending rather than wait until next May to make such decisions.

If we're "all in this together," then government must share the same burden that private businesses, workers and families are suffering.

For these and other reasons, I urge you to use your leadership position to circulate a petition among members of the Assembly to call, at the earliest date possible, a new Special Session to deal with these matters.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Annie Black". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Assemblywoman Annie Black  
*Assembly District 19*