We had gotten to a time where many of us had taken our liberties, our rights, and our freedoms for granted. Covid-19 reminded us that we can’t take them for granted.

We’re at a time and place where there is an incredibly delicate balance that we need to maintain between our rights, the economy, safety, and mental health considerations. The weight of each can shift day-to-day as we obtain more current and accurate information. We have to stop living in yesterday. Right now many people are tired of what they see as an infringement upon their liberties, rights, and freedoms. I don’t disagree with them. It’s carrying a lot of weight.

From the first days of this pandemic I have said and shared that it would be wrong if there are criminal ramifications for violating the issued public health proclamations. A person should only be charged with a crime if they engaged in foolhardy behavior that cannot be ignored. But they should be charged under current laws that are regularly charged. Not charged with a crime under code that allows emergency proclamations by the Governor. I am in support of people wearing facial coverings in the courthouse. I am opposed to arresting someone simply because they are not wearing a facial covering. That is too great of an infringement upon our rights as American citizens.

I am not saying the threat of Covid-19 isn’t real. It is real. But we are to a point where we need to understand that most people who do get it will recover. Our safety emphasis now needs to shift to the elderly and the vulnerable. By vulnerable I mean those with underlying health conditions. We have the best medical care in the world. I am confident in their ability to address this.

We also need to shift our focus to the economy; our small businesses, our farmers, and all that make our economy robust and viable. Our response needs to be measured and monitored, but we need to get back to work.

When it comes to mental health, Covid-19 has amplified the challenges we had already faced. People are anxious, people are tired, and this is negatively impacting the mental health of many. We need to stop living in yesterday, start addressing this challenge today and now, or the weight of the mental health challenge will be overwhelming tomorrow.

Dan Trelka