

## Chris Taggart

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**From:** Shawn Wathen <Shawn@Chapter1Bookstore.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:32 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Dr. Calderwood

Dear Commissioners:

Your failure to publically and vocally support the honorable work of Dr. Calderwood during the pandemic is, while not surprising, nonetheless appalling. Your dismissiveness of the Governor's directive requiring masks in all indoor public spaces where at least 4 active Covid-19 cases are reported puts the residents and travelers in the county at grave risk. The county's public health officer cannot perform her duties without your active support. Commissioner Hoffman's quote about "parroting" the governor's directive is an adequate reflection of how seriously you take this pandemic. He is a smart man, who chose his verb carefully—to parrot is to repeat mechanically. Not what one would call even moderately supportive. While you all might believe Covid-19 a hoax, and/or the wearing of masks a matter of "freedom", when does that take extremely individualistic concept of freedom take precedence over the freedom of people to be safe? The government requires all drivers to drive on the right side of the road in the name of safety. People aren't up in arms over that issue. The wearing of masks is an inconvenience. You commissioners have lost sight of the distinction between an inconvenience and a problem. A mask is an inconvenience; 141,000 dead Americans is a problem. Your "sorrow" at Dr. Calderwood's resignation rings a bit hollow. Your lack of commitment to a relatively simple strategy to reduce infections is making matters worse.

Sincerely yours,  
Shawn Wathen  
Hamilton, Montana

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