

Illinois: Parents Whose Children Committed Suicide Say COVID Lockdowns at Fault



Lisa Moore's son Trevor Till recently took his own life, and she is suing Illinois Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois High School Association over the pandemic-related restrictions she believes were the "proximate cause" of Trevor's suicide. The suit was filed last month by Moore and four other parents who accuse Pritzker of canceling or indefinitely delaying high school sports and other activities while allowing college and professional athletics to continue. -GEG

An Illinois mother said her teenage son died by suicide after struggling with isolation due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The mother, Lisa Moore, is now suing Gov. J.B. Pritzker because she believes her son Trevor Till's October death was a "proximate cause" of the state's restrictions, the lawsuit says.

The suit was filed last month in LaSalle County Circuit Court by Moore and four other parents against the governor and the Illinois High School Association. It accuses Pritzker of canceling or indefinitely delaying high school sports and activities while allowing college and professional athletics to continue.

"There is no rational or reasonable basis to prohibit certain high school sports while at the same time allowing the same

sports to be played by college and professional athletes,” the lawsuit says.

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Surprise: Justice Kavanaugh Sides with Gov. Pritzker in Restricting Republican Crowds Due to COVID



Last Friday, Obama appointed District Court Judge Sarah Ellis handed a defeat to the Illinois Republican Party by denying their request for an emergency temporary order that would have allowed for a large rally. The GOP organizations appealed for a favorable emergency ruling from a three-judge panel on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals that ruled against them stating, “If 100 Democrats or 100 Republicans gather and ten get infected, those ten may go home and infect a local shopkeeper, a local grocery-store worker, their postal carrier, or their grandmother—someone who had no interest in the earlier gathering. Thus, the balance of harms in this instance strongly favors the governor.” At the same time, large Black Lives Matter protests are allowed to continue despite the the same risk of COVID infections.

On July 4th, the GOP lawyers filed an emergency application for an injunction with Supreme Court Justice Kavanaugh who denied it without comment.

The Supreme Court always has a justice on duty for emergencies, and on Saturday – Independence Day – Justice Brett Kavanaugh, a Trump appointee, was on the job.

And on July 4, Kavanaugh did something that might surprise you, given his conservative and GOP credentials, his days in the George W. Bush White House and the Democratic-led fight over his confirmation.

Kavanaugh sided with Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker.

He denied an emergency bid by several allied Illinois Republican organizations to block Pritzker's COVID-19 pandemic related ban on political events with more than 50 people.

The rush for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction in this case was pegged – so went the argument – to the urgent need to clear the legal way for a July 4 picnic and fireworks to rally the Will County GOP faithful – at a farm, a place with plenty of room for people to spread out.

That picnic angle is now moot.

This case is an offshoot of a larger movement, spurred on by Trump, to challenge public health recommendations – even from his own administration medical experts – when it comes to preventing COVID-19 spread.

Downplaying dangers, Trump insisted on large in-person events Friday, at Mount Rushmore, and Saturday at a July 4 celebration on the National Mall. Trump also moved most of the August GOP nominating convention from North Carolina to Jacksonville, Florida, to avoid mask or social distancing mandates.

Let me back up a bit.

On Friday, July 2, U.S. District Court Judge Sarah Ellis, a nominee of Democratic ex-President Barack Obama, handed a defeat to the Illinois Republican Party; Will County Republican Central Committee; Schaumburg Township Republican Organization, and the Northwest Side GOP Club. She denied their request for an emergency temporary order that would have allowed for a large gathering.

One of the GOP arguments was that large Black Lives Matter protests are taking place, so given the First Amendment, the party events should also be allowed. Indeed, Pritzker was present at one march. Without going down that comparative road, Ellis wrote in her opinion that the COVID-19 public health risks “are too great” for a large gathering.

The GOP organizations quickly appealed for a favorable emergency ruling from a three-judge panel on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals.

On July 3, the judges – Diane Wood, tapped for the bench by Democratic ex-President Bill Clinton; Joel Flaum, an appointee of former Republican President Gerald Ford; and Amy Barrett, tapped by Trump (and who is on Trump’s list of potential Supreme Court justices) – signed an order denying the emergency challenge.

“If 100 Democrats or 100 Republicans gather and ten get infected, those ten may go home and infect a local shopkeeper, a local grocery-store worker, their postal carrier, or their grandmother—someone who had no interest in the earlier gathering. Thus, the balance of harms in this instance strongly favors the governor,” the three judges concluded.

The Illinois GOP organizations are represented in this fight by the Liberty Justice Center, the Loop law firm devoted to conservative and GOP causes. The center was a key legal player in the landmark Illinois case over mandatory union fees paid by many state of Illinois workers – Mark Janus vs AFSCME

Council 31 – winning a big Supreme Court victory.

On July 4 the Liberty lawyers, Daniel Suhr and Jeffrey Schwab, filed an emergency application for an injunction with Kavanaugh.

They told Kavanaugh in their brief, the question is, “Does the Governor of Illinois, who permits gatherings of 50 or more for religious speech or certain protestors’ speech (a Black Lives Matters reference) violate the First Amendment by prohibiting such gatherings for political parties’ speech?”

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Illinois: Judge Rules Governor Lacks the Power to Keep Citizens Under Lockdown!



Clay County Judge Michael McHaney ruled that the 30 days of emergency powers provided to Democrat Governor Pritzker by state law lapsed on April 8 and **any executive orders afterward related to COVID-19 are void!** The ruling said the state constitution did not allow Pritzker “to restrict a citizen’s movement or activities and/or forcibly close business premises.” In May, Governor Pritzker warned small business owners that if they try to reopen their businesses they could

face up to a year in prison. Pritzker has used the disaster proclamations to restrict the re-opening of the state.

In response, Republican Representative Darren Bailey won a lawsuit for a restraining order against Governor Pritzker in April, which was granted by the same judge, thus nullifying COVID-19 regulations for Bailey. The Illinois Supreme Court declined to intervene for Pritzker. Bailey then refiled the lawsuit to include all residents and businesses, and Judge McHaney sided with Bailey, nullifying the governor's executive orders that were issued after the 30-day emergency had expired.

The Illinois Attorney General's office is expected to appeal. In a separate case, a federal judge ruled in Pritzker's favor, denying the Republican Party's request to temporarily block the governor's limit on gatherings from applying to political parties.

A county judge has ruled Gov. J.B. Pritzker exceeded his authority by extending the state's public health disaster declaration beyond the first 30 days in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

The impact of Thursday's ruling by a judge from southern Illinois' Clay County wasn't immediately clear as the governor's office maintains other courts have upheld his orders.

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The lawsuit was filed by Republican state Rep. Darren Bailey of Xenia, who was removed from a legislative session in May when he refused to wear a face mask.

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Additional source:

<https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2020/07/cannot-restrict-freedom-illinois-judge-voids-governor-pritzkers-coronavirus-lockdown-orders/>

Judge Rules Illinois Governor Exceeded His Authority with Stay-At-Home Order



Darren Bailey, a farmer and Representative in the Illinois State Legislature, won his lawsuit that challenged Governor JB Pritzker's authority to extend his stay-at-home order beyond the initial 30 days. Judge Michael McHaney ruled that Pritzker was prohibited "from in any way enforcing the March 20 executive order against Darren Bailey forcing him to isolate and quarantine in his home." Bailey said that citizens are "overwhelmed" and "scared to death" not of the COVID-19 virus, but of losing their livelihoods. Illinois is counting anyone who died and merely suspected of having COVID-19 is being called a COVID-19 death. In spite of that policy, the statewide death toll is only 1,983, much lower than typical seasonal flu. -GEG

Political divisions over Gov. J.B. Pritzker's statewide stay-

at-home restrictions were on full display Monday, as a judge issued a temporary injunction allowing a Republican legislator to disregard the order, a decision Pritzker quickly denounced while forcefully defending his actions to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

The ruling by Clay County Circuit Court Judge Michael McHaney came in a lawsuit filed by Rep. Darren Bailey that challenged Pritzker's authority to extend his stay-at-home order beyond the initial 30 days under the state's Emergency Management Act.

While the ruling applied only to Bailey, it could open the door for other Illinois residents to seek similar relief from the stay-at-home order, with McHaney's injunction as a justification.

In seeking the injunction, Bailey said he is "irreparably harmed each day he is subjected to" Pritzker's executive order, and asked the judge to enjoin the governor or anyone under his authority from enforcing it against him.

McHaney's ruling said Pritzker was prohibited "from in any way enforcing the March 20 executive order against Darren Bailey forcing him to isolate and quarantine in his home," or any subsequent orders that would do the same.

At his daily coronavirus news briefing, Pritzker vigorously attacked Bailey, accusing him of acting for political reasons and ignoring the medical threat of the virus. Pritzker promised a quick appeal of the judge's ruling and said he would carry the fight "to the furthest extent possible."

"People are in danger as a result of this ruling, of the judge's ruling of the suit that was brought by Darren Bailey," Pritzker said.

"We certainly are going to act in a swift fashion to try to have this ruling overturned, certainly put a stay in place,"

the governor said. "I mean it's, frankly, it's insulting, it's dangerous, and people's safety and health has now been put at risk. There may be people who contract coronavirus as a result of what Darren Bailey has done now."

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot also slammed the judge's ruling, which she called "troubling," and said it could give "the wrong impression that we have beaten the COVID-19 pandemic."

"Nothing about today's ruling will change the city's intention to continue imposing the stay at home restrictions," she said in a statement.

Attorney General Kwame Raoul's office is "reviewing the order and considering our options for appeal in consultation with the governor's office," spokeswoman Annie Thompson said.

Illinois has been under a statewide stay-at-home order since March 21, placing broad restrictions on residents and businesses the order deems "nonessential," aimed at curbing the spread of highly contagious COVID-19. Illinois was the second state to announce such a far-reaching statewide action, though the majority of states have since followed suit and instituted some statewide restrictions.

Pritzker announced last week he would extend the stay-at-home order through May 30, with some modifications due to take effect Friday.

Pritzker on Monday encouraged municipal leaders and residents across the state "to follow the advice of our scientists here in Illinois and across the nation," and continue obeying the directives set out in the stay-at-home order.

"History will remember those who put politics aside to come together to keep people safe. It will also remember those who, so blindly devoted to ideology and the pursuit of personal celebrity, that they made an enemy of science, and of reason," Pritzker said Monday.

In an interview later Monday afternoon, Bailey said he believes the judge's ruling should apply to everyone in the state and encouraged others to take legal action similar to his own.

"If people want to, if anyone wants to file any kind of similar suit in their home county or in their circuit, they can certainly do that," Bailey said. "What I'm doing is challenging the constitutionality of the governor, of what he's been doing."

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