

**From:** Emma McArthur <ejminoz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 March 2020 4:41 PM  
**To:** rebekha.sharkie.mp@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** Governmental overreach with Corona virus

Dear Rebekha

I am writing to you to express my concern about the State Government's amendment to the Public Health Act, which is due to be tabled in Parliament tomorrow. I realise this is not a Federal issue, and that you may consider it outside your remit; however, [REDACTED] and are passionate about our community, hence I am approaching you in the first instance.

From my vantage point, this amendment appears to be a gross overreach of power by the State Government, which is disproportionate to the situation at hand, and more in keeping with the actions of a totalitarian regime than a democratically elected government. The media reporting suggests that the legislation would allow forcible testing, quarantine and detention of individuals who 'could have been exposed' to the coronavirus, as well as make it easier for the police, or 'security firms' to be called in - it doesn't take a great deal of imagination to see how such powers could be abused or misused, and I would argue that this is a sneaky attempt by the State Government to unnecessarily increase its powers over citizens, using current fears about coronavirus to shield it from property scrutiny. As I am sure you are aware, once government powers are increased, it is very difficult to wind them back, and therefore one has to ask, how could these powers be used in the future?

I would appreciate any information you have on this matter, and welcome suggestions as to what actions can be taken to ensure this is in our best interests as citizens of SA. Personally, I see little justification for increasing government powers in this way, and find governmental responses to coronavirus more worrying than the risk of the virus itself.

Warm regards  
Emma