1. **Title:** Explaining Governors’ Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States

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3. **Abstract**
What is the response of US governors to the COVID-19 pandemic? In this research note, we explore the determinants of implementing stay-at-home orders, focusing on governors' characteristics. In our most conservative estimate, being a Democratic governor increases the probability of implementing a stay-at-home order by more than 50 percent. Moreover, we find that the probability of implementing a statewide stay-at-home order is about 40 percent more likely for governors without a term limit than governors with a term limit. We also find that Democratic governors and governors without a term limit are significantly faster to adopt statewide orders than Republican governors and governors with a term limit. There is evidence of politics as usual in these unusual times.

4. **Data description**
Our first outcome variable captures whether a state had issued statewide orders forcing its citizens to stay home as of March 30, 2020. Our second outcome captures how many days had passed since the state implemented the stay-at-home order, starting from March 19, 2020, the day on which California has passed the first statewide order in the US. States that had not implemented a statewide as of March 30, 2020 are right-censored to use the language of survival analysis. Data comes from the New York Times.

5. **JEL CODES:** D72, H51, H75, I18

6. **Keywords:** COVID-19, pandemic, ideology, governors, United States

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