

Rich Ward
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Proponent Testimony – HB 624

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and Members of The Ohio House State and Local Government Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to give proponent testimony on HB 624.

I support House Bill 624. This is a good common-sense bill. HB-624 simply requires that the Ohio Department of Health provides Ohioans with the full story – all of the facts – good and bad, when disseminating information on COVID-19.

Currently the Ohio Department of Health only reports data that spell “doom and gloom” such as deaths, hospitalizations and confirmed cases. Cherry picked information to support Amy Acton’s and Mike DeWine’s on going actions. This does not represent a true picture of what is really going on.

Thank goodness for investigative reporter Jack Windsor for asking the tough questions and really digging deep to separate the numbers. Now we’re able to see a much different picture like over 70% of people who have passed and have had major

problems due to Covid-19 were in nursing homes. So the one size fits all, shut down, decimate the economy and isolate everyone was clearly not needed. Let's focus on where the problems are. We're over 8 weeks into this and still no plan to properly address the problems that nursing homes are having with the virus.

What about reporting the following:

Confirmed cases that didn't require any care at all

Number of patients who were treated and released

People who tested negative

People who have passed that were not in nursing homes or in prison.

Number of people who had contributing conditions such as

Diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure and pulmonary issues.

I urge everyone to support HB-624. It's just common-sense legislation that will allow for the transparency in reporting that Ohioans absolutely deserve to know.

Thank you for your time.

Rich Ward