

Ohio House State and Local Government Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
Columbus, OH 43215

3 June 2020

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

I am in favor of HB 624 which sets forth specific COVID 19 reporting requirements for Health Care providers and for the Ohio Department of Health to properly process and report such data. The current methods in use are prejudicial toward data manipulation used for creating and maintaining fear which is detrimental to our Public Health and our Economy.

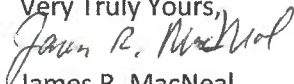
The current methodology and procedures result in hiding the fact that 70% of Ohio's COVID 19 deaths occurred in nursing homes, prisons and the like. This obscures the fact that COVID19 primarily targets the elderly and those with underlying health conditions. Using this data as a basis for policy and procedures results in quarantine of the healthy which is exactly the wrong thing to do to minimize death and morbidity in the entire population.

Implementing a quarantine before the peak of infections lengthens the epidemic and results in approximately 25% more deaths than would be incurred if the quarantine were implemented right at the peak of infection. This is solid epidemiology but was obscured by the manipulation of both the data and the public opinion about the epidemic.

Ohio's quarantine, based on the current way of manipulating the data was implemented far too early to be of use in reducing impact to our public health and our economy. The quarantine prolonged the epidemic and resulted in more lives being lost , not to mention the disastrous affect on our State economy. This is in no small part due to the way the Department of Health has free rein to manipulate the data. HB 624 will end that abuse of power and outright dishonesty in creating public opinion favorable to the Governor and Health Department Director's whims and objectives. There may be an ulterior motive involved in manipulation of public opinion, which is political in nature and not in the best interests of Ohio's public health or economy.

Please pass HB 624 as it is written and restore integrity to Ohio's critical public health reporting system particularly as relates to COVID 19.

Very Truly Yours,



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