

Chairman Romanchuk, Ranking Member West and members of the Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services,

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony about HB166. There is a section of HB 166 - "107.20" that states in (B)(1) that "the Governor shall declare a state of emergency that affects the public health if the Governor determines that either of the following is the case and that one or more political subdivisions lack the resources or capabilities necessary to protect the public health and safety."

It goes on to say in (C)(4) that it authorizes by executive order to "authorize a health care practitioner licensed in another jurisdiction to provide health care services during the emergency in accordance with ANY directions specified in the executive order."

This is a severe overreach of the powers of the governor. No one person should have the power to declare a public health emergency that has no description whatsoever to the citizens in Ohio with the stroke of a pen. This is like giving the governor a blank check to decide the medical care of Ohioans.

Currently, in New York City, we see this overreach being played out. Simply by executive order, Mayor Bill DeBlasio has declared a state of emergency over a handful of measles cases in five zip codes covering Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The order states that all persons over the age of 6 months are to be inoculated with the Measles Mumps and Rubella Vaccine within 48 hours or they will be fined \$1,000 or become subject to jail time. He has given no exemptions for religious beliefs or conscientious objection.

Section 107.20 will give the Governor of Ohio this same power. You can not let that happen. This should never happen in any state in our country. In America, we have the right to live freely without fear of the police going door to door checking our vaccination status or checking our personal health status when we are not a threat to the health of anyone.

Because of the obvious issues with section 107.20 of HB 166, I urge you to create an amendment to strike this section from the budget completely.

Thank you,

Lindsey Evans
Concerned Citizen
Resident of Urbana, Ohio