Chair Romanchuk, Ranking Member West and members of the Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Section 107.20 of HB 166.

My name is Anthony DiBiase, and I am a retired Professional Engineer. I am opposed to Section 107.20 of HB 166 because the budget process should not include “slipping in” a blanket authorization by any government body, entity or leader to declare a state of emergency as related to health or health choices. Any such authorization needs to have a separate legislative process to allow for an adequate and comprehensive review as related to existing Federal and State protective laws. This section appears to be a boilerplate legislation that is being disseminated across many states and heavily influenced by special interests to further benefit their long-range objectives of state control over constituents’ personal medical freedoms. In previous years, including last year’s budget process, there have been several progressively insidious attempts to infringe upon parental rights and individual rights, specifically in relation to bodily autonomy and informed consent associated with mandatory medical procedures, in order for the medical industrial complex to achieve their goals.

Thank you for your time and attention. If you have any questions, I will gladly try to answer them.

Anthony E. DiBiase