

Michelle Cotterman, RN
Opponent Sec. 107.20, HB166
Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
April 11, 2019

Chairman Romanchuk, Ranking Member West, and members of the Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, it is an honor and a privilege to stand before you today to express my concern with section 107.20 of HB 166.

I am a registered nurse, but most importantly I am a mother. Both of these things combined make health and wellness a priority for me and something I am exceptionally passionate about. It is gravely concerning to me that hidden within the 1800 page budget bill we will find a small section dedicated to dictator style, big government over reach into our health sovereignty. **Section 107.20 would give *one individual* the power to issue an executive order declaring a public health emergency which will allow this person to assume control of emergency management operations, order the director of budget and management to transfer cash from any fund, and direct state and local law enforcement for the purpose of securing compliance with the executive order.** There are no checks or balances in this sweeping power grab and it is this exact type of maneuver that increases the fragmentation of trust citizens have in their governmental agencies and health institutions. Existing public health measures are appropriate and important aspects of limiting the spread of infectious diseases. Please consider removing this section.

Thank you for your time and attention, I will be happy to answer any questions to the best of my ability.

Michelle Cotterman, RN