

Chair Wiggam, Vice-Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 311.

Since March the governor and ODH have clearly overstepped their authority in an effort to protect Ohioans from themselves. While these intentions may have been altruistic in the beginning, it has become very clear that the governor is out to prove a point. The point is that he feels that he has ultimate power within the state to dictate how we live our day to day lives. He feels that we cannot act as responsible adults, and therefore the power of the state must be used against us.

His actions, and stubbornness, have negatively impacted millions of Ohioans. Businesses have closed permanently, families live in fear of seeing each other, school children are robbed of a normal education, our daily norms have been smashed. And for what? A virus that nearly 99% of people survive.

The fact is that life is a risky proposition. Every day we can die a thousand different ways, but life goes on. We are adults. We are aware of the risks of living and it is up to us to mitigate those risks. As free Ohioans, and free Americans, we have a God given right to live our lives free from government intrusion. SB 311 would be a massive win for freedom loving people across the state and it would return the burden of responsibility back where it belongs, the individual.

I look forward to the passage for SB311, a return to normal, and Governor DeWine learning a hard lesson: Buckeyes don't back down from tyranny in any form.