

State and Local Government Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony regarding SB311.

I am a concerned Ohio citizen, my husband and I are small business owners, and we have school aged children. Our family has been directly impacted by Ohio's lockdowns and we are deeply concerned about our viability should another lockdown take place.

We managed to keep our two small businesses operational during the last lockdown but not without financial loss. A second lockdown may close our doors permanently, which would mean loss of income for our family as well as the dozen other families that rely on us. The stress of managing this has had a negative impact on my husband's health.

My children struggled with the at-home-learning and the isolation we experienced during the first lockdown. We have been incredibly fortunate that they have been able to attend school in person this fall but we're concerned that may change at any time. My young athletes were "benched" for no fault of their own and they missed playing their sports in the spring. I watched as all three of my children suffered different social and psychological impacts from the "protective measures" taken. One child began spiraling downward so drastically that we took action to intervene and prevent a tragedy. We have worked extra hard to create a positive home environment to keep their spirits up and provide for their mental and spiritual health. But another lockdown would be extremely difficult on them.

I have friends who have lost loved ones during this time, not because of a COVID infection, but from the effects of isolation. I fear that one of my loved ones will become a casualty too.

I have never seen Americans so afraid of each other. The measures our government has taken has turned neighbor against neighbor, family member against family member. This division is extremely concerning.

While our physical health is important, the drastic, unprecedented actions our government has taken is detrimental to our mental, spiritual, economic, and even our physical health. The physical effects of the stress we're experiencing are just as harmful as the virus we are trying to avoid. We believe that the government's job is not to protect our health but to protect our freedoms!

Please support SB311.

Thank you,
Jennifer Rotruck