

November 17, 2020

To the Members of the State and Local Government Committee:

Scott Wiggam, Jason Stephens, Brigid Kelly, John Becker, Timothy Ginter, Dave Greenspan, Stephen Hambley, Bernadine Kennedy Kent, C. Allison Russo, Michael J. Skindell, J. Todd Smith, Lisa A. Sobecki, Fred Strahorn, D. J. Swearingen, and Shane Wilkin.

Dear Representatives,

My name is Katie McCloskey, and I am a resident of Central Eastmoor, Columbus. I am writing to offer my personal testimony in support of Senate Bill 311.

By now you have likely heard many accounts from your constituents on how they have been adversely affected by the numerous, often conflicting, and severely demoralizing restrictions that Governor DeWine and others have placed on Ohioans. Our stories could fill volumes, but here I will only summarize my own.

Since the restrictions have been in place, I have been beset by anxiety unlike anything I have ever experienced. I have been isolated. I have been unable to conduct normal activities to support my family. I have lost many of my friends. I have been unable to worship with my local church family. I have contemplated whether life is worth living. I have contemplated with immobilizing fear the futures of my three very young children.

The restrictions the Ohio governing authority has placed on me and all Ohioans are in direct opposition to the ideology of freedom protected by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, as well as to the moral and ethical sensibility of rational man. Sadly, the public policies set by Governor DeWine and allowed to continue unchecked by Ohio state representatives have reduced the ability of many Ohioans to act, and often even think, rationally. Fear has overtaken us. Fear of Covid. Fear of judgment from peers. Fear of losing livelihoods, fear of fines, fear of arrest, fear of censure. Fear of dying. Fear of LIVING.

Please end our fear. Please restrict Governor DeWine. Your constituents are relying on you. I am relying on you. My children need their mother.

Thank you,

Katie McCloskey  
214 S. Virginialee Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43209