

Dear Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairman Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the State and Local Government Committee:

I am in favor of SB 311 and urge you to support this bill. As a lifelong Ohio resident and now a parent of 6 young Ohioans, I have been alarmed by the course Ohio has taken this year under emergency powers. The economic, physical, emotional, and long-term problems that have been caused by extreme government overreach over the past several months must stop now and CANNOT happen again.

In order to "stop" a virus that has a survival rate of nearly 100%, Ohioans have been subjected to increased deaths of despair, discrimination, division, and many consequences which, while I am sure that were unintended, have been proven to be worse than the virus itself. The manipulation of data and fear mongering that has driven the mandates has turned Ohioans against one another, caused businesses to attempt to function under threat of penalty and closure while discriminating against customers who are NOT afraid and NOT sick. Governor DeWine and his accomplices have harmed many more than Covid-19. Ohioans are responsible for their own health and wellbeing, and must be free to make choices they believe are right for themselves, rather than being threatened and coerced into compliance with unscientific and unconstitutional mandates. Stores and restaurants, churches and sports clubs should NOT have to function under threats and fear in order to make customers and employees "feel safe." The role of the government is to protect my rights, liberties, and freedoms, nothing more, nothing less. We have watched our government go FAR beyond their scope this year WITHOUT OUR CONSENT.

SB 311 will restore the balance of power between three co-equal branches of government. SB 311 will reopen Ohio. We do not want a dictator in Ohio, but that is what we are living under right now. Please, allow us transparency and debate to determine appropriate action, rather than have mandates implemented without our consent. We want to be involved. We want Ohio to be safe and to thrive. We are no more safe nor thriving under Governor DeWine's orders. SB 311 will keep limited actions available for Public Health emergencies while providing protections to Ohio citizens so that the elected legislature can have time to take appropriate actions if necessary. What started out as 14 days to "flatten the curve" is quickly approaching a year of devastation caused by one public servant who is NOT doing the will of the people he serves.

Ohio is failing. Our futures are bleak. We cannot continue like this. PLEASE help us

I ask you to vote YES on SB 311.

Thank you,

Lisa McDaniel

