

**November 18, 2020**

**Written (Proponent) Testimony in regards to SB 311 presented to the State and Local Government Committee of the Ohio House -133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly - Ravi Kulasekere PhD, ND, BCHHP**

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **supporting** SB 311. A bill that prohibits the Department of Health from issuing a general, mandatory statewide or regional quarantine or isolation order that applies to and is enforced against individuals who have not been either directly exposed to or medically diagnosed with the disease that is the subject of the order and allows the General Assembly to adopt a concurrent resolution to rescind certain Health Department orders or rules for preventing the spread of contagious or infectious diseases.

My name is Ravi Kulasekere, a practicing board certified doctor of traditional naturopathy and a PhD medical physicist by training with over a dozen years working in the field of cancer care. I am writing to express my support to SB311 as a concerned Ohio citizen, a caring parent, holistic health practitioner and a scientist. I have been carefully observing the many draconian COVID-19 policy decisions that were made by the Director of the ODH as well as the Governor of Ohio, based on bad models and the sole interpretation of selected data and science at their discretion. These two individuals did not seem to care what the evolving data or science or even the evidence presented from the field said, in making these decisions that affected the lives of millions of Ohioans adversely. Their sole intention was to limit the spread of a virus with failed policies, while people's loss of livelihood, loss of children's education, serious emotional, mental and physical trauma to both children and adults alike and every other adverse aspect that these policies made in the lives of Ohioans that were summarily ignored. More importantly our constitutional rights as free citizens of the state were trampled upon in the process as well. While we were facing the passage of an infectious disease through our State, such unilateral actions do not serve the public well. The voice of many, and especially that of those who have been elected to serve the public and uphold their constitutional rights and privileges, should be included in making such decisions and taking actions that affect the people physically and emotionally. It is also concerning that these actions also forced Ohioans to in many ways participate in a specific allopathic health care system which is not what the protections of the Ohio Constitution guarantees us. People are free to choose what healthcare system they want to participate in and many Ohioans are currently turning to holistic health for their own health and well-being. Therefore, these people also need a voice and should not be drowned out by the only mainstream system that they do not participate in for prevention and wellness. As a natural health practitioner, it is also deeply disturbing to me that the governor's COVID-19 policies completely ignored healthy people and the assumption that everyone is presumed sick was adopted. This is not only unscientific but also deeply detrimental to the mental and emotional

health of individuals, especially children. The fact that the voice of alternative health which is accepted around the world is missing from all of these considerations is also a disturbing aspect for those who do not participate in the allopathic model of care as the primary means of infection and disease prevention.

For almost 8 months now we have endured the failed policies of both the Governor and the Director of Health and it is time to change the course we have been on with a more accountable system with transparency, integrity, limited power and a voice for all. It is also imperative that no individual elected or unelected has the authority to abuse their powers and trample on the fundamental constitutional rights granted to us. No infectious disease should make the constitutional freedoms null and void. No individual should also be able to determine whose business or livelihood is more essential than another's and call for the closure of such entities putting people's physical and mental health at a higher risk than from the virus. It is therefore in the best interest of all Ohioans that powers of individuals to make such orders be limited and the approval of such be determined by the legislators who have been elected by the people to serve and uphold the constitution. I therefore urge you to vote YES on SB311 and bring back integrity, legitimacy and transparency to the State of Ohio in handling the present situation as well as future ones.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Kulasekere', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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Board Certified Holistic Health Practitioner