

November 11, 2020

RE: Senate Bill 311

Today I would like to express my support for Senate Bill 311. It is my belief that sections of the Ohio Revised Code outlining the authority of the Ohio Director of Public Health can, and recently has, been misinterpreted by members of the Ohio Executive Branch. Senate Bill 311 would simply clarify the law.

I am just an ordinary citizen, by no means an expert on State Government or law. I do, however, have the basic understanding that the Executive Branch is comprised of a single head in the Governor. The Legislative Branch is made of multiple members elected locally all over the State. The beauty of this system is citizens have easy access to their State Senators and Representatives, this allows the legislative branch to set policy based on what their constituents want, believe, and need because they are our neighbors. The Governor is a single person representing nearly 11.7million citizens, he does not have the luxury of seeing or hearing what is happening at the local level. I write all this because I believe this system was put in place to give all Ohioans a better voice in what is becoming State policy or law. The framers of our Government believed this too, which is why they made it so neither branch could work independently of the other. It is a system of checks and balances and it has worked wonderfully since inception with only a few changes.

In recent months it has become apparent that sections of the Ohio Revised code pertaining to public health can be, and have been, interpreted by members of the Executive Branch to allow them to make statewide mandates that drastically affect the lives of every single citizen in Ohio, whether this citizen is sick or has been exposed to a disease, or not. This simply cannot be the intent of the law. Whether or not these policies are affective, it most certainly cannot be the case that 1 or 2 individuals in the Government have the authority to shut down businesses and keep all Ohioans at home for extended periods of time.

Senate Bill 311 will clarify the law to re-introduce the oversight and collaboration of the Legislative Branch, as was intended by the authors. I am in support of Senate Bill 311 because I feel it is crucial to return the checks and balances to the system, especially when referring to Statewide policy that limits the rights and freedoms of an entire population.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tyler Mitchell