

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

I support SB311 in that it gives the citizens of Ohio and the legislature a voice when it comes to the overreach of government during a crisis. It is the government's duty to protect the rights of each and every citizen and what we have witnessed over the last 8 months is a gross misuse of power all in the name of public health. Since when does public health dictate a free people's ability to come and go as needed? Since when does public health usurp the Ohio State Constitution as well as the United States Constitution? Back in March when this all began I was willing to sacrifice the first 2-3 weeks that the governor asked of Ohioans but as time went on and more information was revealed it was clear this virus was not as deadly as reported. Yes, death is sad but to believe death can be prevented and a virus can be stopped is arrogant and a dangerous path to take. Life has risk. We accept that every time we get behind the wheel of a car there is a possibility of an accident and possibly death. We accept that every time we walk down the sidewalk or go for a run alongside the road there is a risk. We do not cower in our homes because there is risk but instead we choose to go out and live life fully because we have been endowed by our Creator with inalienable rights. This in no way means we are reckless with other people's lives or our own lives, but we are free to act in a manner that is free while showing compassion to others.

These last 8 months have been a nightmare for Ohioans. Suicide, depression, ODs, anxiety, and other health issues have been on the rise. When there is the threat of people's livelihoods being taken away it creates a spirit of oppression and fear. For my family and me it has been anxiety inducing to not know if the state is going to be unconstitutionally shut down again. It has been difficult to watch more of our rights vaporize as each unconstitutional order is written and signed.

I will end with encouraging the legislature to pass SB311 in an effort to end the state of emergency thus giving Ohioans back their lives and the freedom to make their own choices without government interference.

Respectfully
Alicia Richcreek