

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

I am testifying in favor of SB 311 today as an Ohio resident deeply concerned about the action being taken under the current emergency powers and the dire effects it is having on all of us.

I am a small business owner in the state of Ohio. I provide marketing and operational consultation to other small business owners. I have seen first hand the devastating financial loss these small businesses have faced since the orders issued in March of this year. There are no bailouts for a small business, there is no unemployment available, and many small businesses were denied any funds from the PPE loans.

My family has had several health issues that have worsened as a result of the excessive emergency powers.

I couldn't see my dermatologist for a unique skin lesion until June. The lesion was misdiagnosed in office to be confirmed as T1B malignant melanoma cancer via pathology. This tumor changed over the course of the shutdown and if I was able to see a doctor in-office instead of through forced telehealth, it may have been a procedure that could have been removed in-situ in office.

Due to the violation of my medical rights, I had to have my melanoma removed by an oncologist along with lymph nodes. My doctors have said this type of delay in care could have been deadly since melanoma can spread throughout the entire body in a single week. My care was delayed by 3 months due to the shutdown.

I am the wife of a disabled US Army veteran. My husband had forced telehealth appointments for his military injuries due to the shutdown. As a result of the violation of his medical rights to see any of his doctors in-person, he suffered from a heart attack on September 17.

Due to the Governor's orders, my husband was also refused me, his medical advocate, to be with him during his stay and procedures. He tested covid negative 3 different times during his stay. The VA hospital policy does not allow any visitors for admitted patients. This is a slap in the face to our veterans who have served and fought for our constitutional rights.

I am a mother of three amazing children. They have been robbed of the education that they deserve. My youngest son was sent home on his second day back to school due to an anxiety attack. His symptoms were confused for covid symptoms. Thankfully our school administrators used common sense to not force a quarantine at that time. His anxiety was finally getting better when they returned to school 5 days a week - life was becoming normal and routine again.

That all stopped when two our two children was forced to quarantine due to an exposure to covid positive students. We know our youth are not at risk of acquiring covid, but the Governor's orders are enforced at the county level with the rule of an exposure within 6 feet from a covid positive person within a 24 hour period.

Why are we forcing healthy people to quarantine? Covid has a 99% recovery rate. One person dies every 36 seconds in the US from a cardiac issue. Melanoma has a 90% survival rate. Our

odds of surviving covid are greater than our odds of surviving another heart attack or a new skin cancer growth if we are not allowed to exercise our medical freedom and receive the preventive care we deserve.

As you can see, these orders have caused our family both financial and health damage. I couldn't work during my time of recovery following my surgery. Our conditions are chronic conditions that require preventive care and follow-up.

I appreciate each of your support of SB311 as an Ohioan that is doing her part to protect the vulnerable. Our lives matter too despite the complete dismissal of the right to receive timely care due to the health orders by Governor Dewine.

Thank you for your time!

~ Andrea Deckard