

Dear Chairman Wiggam and Members of the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee,

I am a private business owner of a manufacturing company. My brother and I employ approximately 90 people. Meaning that 90 families count on our little company every day for their livelihood. This is our work family and we take their financial needs as well as their health needs very seriously. To do this we need to balance out many factors to keep EVERYONE safe and allow them to live their lives and provide for their families. We have just had our first case of COVID-19 reported since the outbreak. This is an important point because we were deemed an essential business and have remained open. We have spent a lot of money and expended a lot of time, energy, and research to safely care for our business and our team.

I am explaining this because it is not reasonable to presume a single person, particularly a health care official, would have been able to navigate these waters and balance all factors necessary to keep our company open while simultaneously protecting everyone's health. I would hope that we would use all resources available in the great state of Ohio to ensure all of our health needs, as well as our financial wellbeing, are being addressed. This is a balancing act that can and does require different disciplines. I am not a doctor and admittedly most likely not smart enough to be one. But I am smart enough to know what I don't know and will seek guidance and agreement to come to a solution that weighs all factors.

For these reasons, I am fully supportive of Sub.S.B.311 and would urge your affirmative vote. It restores appropriate and balanced oversight from elected legislators, not just to finish navigating COVID-19 but to also protect Ohioans from future overreach in policies enacted by unelected officials in the Ohio Department of Health. As President Trump has said - the cure cannot be worse than the illness. It takes the work of many to make reasonable decisions that consider all factors and opinions, as well as avoid unintended consequences.

Best regards,
Bill

Bill Bennett
President
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