

November 18, 2020

RE: Senate Bill 311- Limit Director of Health order-issuing authority

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairman Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the State and Local Government Committee: Thank you for allowing me to sponsor testimony for SB 311. I write to you not just on behalf of myself, but on behalf of my daughter who is in her senior year of high school and her friends, on behalf of my neighbors and my friends who are local businesses owners who have had to shut the doors to their businesses forever, but most importantly, I write to you on behalf of the future generations who will not know liberty if we do not restore our Republic and restrict the tyranny that is in Ohio.

Built on the principles of equality, consent, and rule of the majority, the Constitution provides the sovereign people with the means for effective and reasonable self-governance. As the sovereign, the people separate the three functions of government into departments and delegate specific powers to each, which protects against tyranny and preserves liberty. To that end, the principle of separation of powers helps the people maintain control of their government. The Declaration of Independence asserts that government is legitimate only when the people consent to it. The election of 1800 demonstrated the legitimacy of the American system of government because the people were able to assert their will and change the government, according to the strictures of the Constitution. Larry P. Arn Hillsdale College

Unfortunately, we are in the situation where mandates, coming out of our government, specifically from the appointed lead of The Ohio Department of Health and our governor, are bypassing all these safety nets. Our government rules only by the consent of the people according to our Constitution. There is a process set in place, a legislative process, that is supposed to prevent an individual from abusing authority. Constitutional checks and balances would normally take care of errant elected persons and their best laid, most well-intentioned plans; however, the current mandates have been designed to completely circumvent that legislative processes.

Life is full of risks. We all know that. I would venture to say that I am more than capable of making an analysis of provided information and adjusting activities for me and my family accordingly. The people of Ohio do not require the government to remind us to stay home if you are sick or to wash our hands (one of the most basic things we all learn as children). And currently the alarmist narrative coming out of the governor's office and the Ohio Department of Health do not match the data being provided by the CDC or even the Ohio Dept of Health web page.

This Bill halts the mandates and allows the people of this great state to decide for themselves what risks to take, or not. The impact of the mandates has caused untold harmful effects to our children, families, businesses and even our government. Our children should not go to school in fear of our government...the fear of "am I going to get quarantined today, am I going to be able to go back to school tomorrow". My daughter has called me from school numerous times in a state of panic and I have had to calm her fears even though I have my own. She does not know what is going to happen today to change her life and her plans, this uncertainty is difficult for an adult, how do we expect our children to cope? What is going on with children who do not have the support of two loving parents as my daughter has? What kind of conditions are those children living with? Under parents who are already stressed with living on the fringe and were barely surviving before all this COVID craziness? The fallout, from the unconstitutional mandates, have been more harmful than COVID. My child is suffering mentally from the stress. We are harming our children by altering their lives so drastically that they are afraid to go to school even knowing that that they do not want to do distance learning.

I urge you, our electorate, to stop this misuse of Ohio Revised Code related to current mandates and restore our liberties.

I am requesting that each of the Representatives for the State of Ohio vote YES!!!! On Senate Bill 311 - Limit Director of Health order-issuing authority and, that the Yes vote be of sufficient number as to be Veto proof.

Restore our Republic and legislative processes. And Let Ohioans get back to work and caring for our families.

Thank you for your time.
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