

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

Our family would like to offer our testimony in favor of Senate Bill 311 today as an Ohio resident deeply concerned about courses of action being taken under the current emergency powers and the dire effects it is having on all of us. These orders are overreaching and harmful to Ohio and Ohio’s economy. Personal liberties and freedoms are eroding and these one-branch orders without the proper checks and balances are a dangerous precedent. I believe all Ohioans, regardless of how they feel about covid-19 should support wanting our elected legislators to be involved in decisions which are so impactful to our families, education, freedoms, businesses, and way of life.

The powers of the unelected Director of Health are completely out of line with the checks and balances on which our government was founded. Our Governor, while possibly well intentioned, is holding Ohio hostage with threats and unconstitutional mandates which should be voted upon by our elected officials before any actions are taken.

This bill will help restore the balance of power to where it should be, between the three COEQUAL branches of government and RE-OPENS Ohio. These mask orders, quarantines, and curfews are completely unconstitutional and must be stopped. I do not want to leave my children with a government structure where one leader can unilaterally alter the course of their lives so drastically without repercussions.

Our businesses, our economy, our social and emotional well-being and the future of our children is on the line. Our state cannot thrive under the continued oppressive orders of our over-reaching Governor. We need our representatives to step up and help Ohioans to live with this virus.