

Dillon:

Below, please find my statement in support of SB 311. The witness information form is attached.

My name is Sarah Smith, and I am an attorney, small business owner and mother of four school-age children. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 311.

Just like our nation, the State of Ohio was founded with separation of powers—a system of checks and balances to ensure no one branch of government becomes too powerful. However, under the guise of an emergency—due to flawed models and misinformation—the Executive Branch has ignored that separation and unilaterally passed laws devastating the lives and livelihoods of millions of Ohioans.

It is the Legislative Branch's duty to pass laws. If there is a true emergency, an executive order should be a narrow, temporary response in effect only until the Legislature can convene and do its job. The orders closing businesses or limiting their capacity have continued for eight months after the first stay-at-home order was issued, and there appears to be no end in sight.

Circumventing an equal branch of government by essentially declaring a perpetual state of emergency is a violation of the separation of powers.

SB 311 is a reasonable bill that will reign in the Executive Branch's overreach and I urge your yes vote.

Regards,
Sarah Smith