

As a Family Physician, I would like to express my opposition to SB311. Expressly prohibiting the Department of Health from issuing quarantine or isolation orders to the general public hobbles a key tool in our arsenal for fighting the coronavirus pandemic. And giving the General Assembly the authority to override rules initiated by ODH to help keep people from getting sick and dying of this extremely contagious virus does not make sense. I understand that a full lockdown can have harmful economic and other deleterious consequences, but I trust the public health experts at ODH to balance those risks against the risk of more of our Ohio citizens getting severely ill and dying from this virus.

Frontline healthcare workers are getting tired. Our hospitals and emergency rooms are full. If these facilities are overwhelmed by covid patients, we will not be able to take care of patients with other acute needs. Substituting the medical judgement of the legislators for that of trained public health officials will increase the pressure on doctors, nurses, and hospitals and increase death rates, both from Covid-19 and from other conditions that were unable to be adequately addressed by the overstretched healthcare system.

Please do not vote for this resolution.

Sincerely,

Abigail Lowther, MD