

**Ohio House State and Local Government Committee
Senate Bill 311**

**Opponent Testimony
Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish**

Chairman Colley, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit opponent testimony on Senate Bill 311.

Ohio is experiencing a record number of COVID-19 cases and a surge in severely-ill patients requiring hospitalization – all of which has led to serious concerns regarding the capacity of hospitals across the state to combat this deadly virus.

There is no area of the state immune from the coronavirus pandemic as every county in Ohio has been identified in the high incidence category.

It's a troubling trend we've seen in Cuyahoga County, which I'm proud to represent as County Executive. To preserve hospital capacity and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health issued a 28-day stay-at-home health advisory to protect the lives of our residents and loved ones. It complements the Ohio Department of Health's institution of a statewide curfew.

Public officials need to have the ability to confront health crises such as the COVID-19 epidemic. I'm concerned Senate Bill 311 – which prohibits the Ohio Department of Health from issuing statewide or regional health orders – will take that ability away just when state and local leaders need it most.

I respectfully request the committee to vote “no” on Senate Bill 311.

Thank you for your consideration.