

My name is Emily Farrin and I am an MD anesthesiologist and Critical Care specialist working at Riverside in the OR and ICU. It has come to my attention that SB311, prohibiting healthcare specialists from making public health policy, has passed the Ohio Senate. I oppose this bill as a physician on the front line treating COVID. Healthcare providers have been in this marathon for the past 9 months. We are working overtime and losing incentive pay at the same time. Staying away from our loved ones. Putting ourselves at risk every time we provide patient care, which is especially salient to me as a pregnant woman at risk of preterm labor and miscarriage. Still, I took an oath and I will continue to care for any patient admitted to my service. If you think we aren't already burnt out from this, imagine how we feel when our communities can't be bothered to do the right thing to prevent the spread and make minimal changes so that our hospitals aren't inundated with cases. We have to maintain the ability of the ODH to make decisions regarding the management, as we have seen that individual citizens are too obsessed with what they believe is their freedom not to wear a mask and not to participate in initiatives for the greater good. This time around, as opposed to March, we have a workforce issue as healthcare provider COVID cases are on the rise. We still don't have adequate PPE 9 months into this due to lack of a federal response to this pandemic. We can't afford to continue to be lax about this issue. We don't have beds, for COVID or other patients. Our MICU is full of COVID so other critically ill patients (moms bleeding to death after delivering babies, trauma patients, patients with cancer complications needing urgent abdominal surgery) are being diverted also for lack of space, including at tertiary and quaternary care centers such as RMH and OSU. My colleagues at the Cleveland Clinic are reporting the same.

I urge the House to listen to the experts on this and vote no on SB311.

Regards,

Emily Farrin, MD