

Dear Chariman Wiggam,

My name is Holly Oyster. I am a mother of 2, co-owner of a small business, living in rural northeast Ohio on the farm that has been in my family for 5 generations. I am writing to voice my opposition to Senate Bill 311. At a time when we need to trust our healthcare professionals more than ever, this bill would weaken those professionals, and put untrained state legislators in a position to overrule them. This is not only dangerous, it's foolish. This bill will harm me and my family, as well as all Ohioans. It is pandering to a vocal minority that is being infantile and irrational in the face of minor inconveniences.

This bill is nothing more than a dangerous power-grab by politicians, capitalizing on the fear-mongering of the alt-right. We are already paying a heavy debt in death because these people have compromised our state's response to COVID-19. This bill would make it even harder for our state healthcare professionals to do what is necessary to save lives.

I personally have seen the damage done when well-meaning mandates are robbed of their enforceability. In my town, I regularly see customers in stores with no masks on, or with their mask pulled down below their chins. I have 3 friends who have suffered permanent medical damage due to COVID-19, and 2 others who are in overwhelming medical debt due to their treatment. One of my friends has suffered kidney failure and is on dialysis and awaiting a transplant, when he previously had no kidney issues at all. All of this would have been avoided if Ohio could have enforced the mask mandate starting in July. I am terrified that people will refuse to take the vaccine when it becomes available, and that will lead to yet more death.

Do not pass this bill into law.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Thank you,

Holly