



Mayor David Scheffler, City of Lancaster
Opponent Testimony
Senate Bill 311

Ohio House State and Local Government Committee, November 19, 2020

Chair Wiggam, Vice-Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government committee, on behalf of the Ohio Mayors Alliance, a bipartisan coalition of mayors representing Ohio's largest cities and suburbs, I would like to submit this testimony in opposition to Ohio Senate Bill 311, which would prohibit the Ohio Department of Health from issuing statewide or regional health orders that are issued to protect the life and health of Ohioans.

The coronavirus has not gone away. In fact, we are in the midst of record-breaking case numbers and hospitalizations. We do not believe that it would be prudent at this time to limit the state's ability to help keep our citizens safe and slow the spread of this deadly virus.

The bill language would remove application and enforcement of health orders to those who have not been either directly exposed to or medically diagnosed with the disease that is the subject of the order. However, we know with the current level of community spread of this disease, in every county in the state, that tracing those who have been directly exposed is not possible. Every county, whether urban, suburban or rural, is a high incidence county. This pandemic continues to grip this entire state.

As mayors, we are elected to protect the health and wellbeing of our communities and our residents. State and local leaders need every tool available to help mitigate the spread of coronavirus until we get through this global pandemic. We urge the committee to vote no on SB 311.