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Dear Members of the Senate Health Committee:

As a life-long citizen of the State of Ohio, I am both shocked and appalled at the Governor's handling of the current health situation in our great state. The idea that one person and one person alone is holding all of the power in the State of Ohio is egregious. The idea that this one person holding the power is not directly elected by the people of the State of Ohio is downright tyrannical. Yet, under present Ohio law, this is exactly what is lawfully happening.

The time for this madness to stop is now!

I urge you and your colleagues to support Senate Bill 311 as introduced.

Ohio citizens have suddenly and abruptly been told to stop their lives completely and to just deal with the consequences - especially the children of our state. Ohioans have been fed a diet of misleading data along with various other scare tactics to follow lock-step with the orders being issued by the Director of Health. The Governor's office is even encouraging Ohioans to turn on one another and report noncompliance with their orders. As a citizen, it is my duty to question my government and the tactics being used. When a government unilaterally is making decisions, red flags are raised in my mind. There needs to be checks and balances to the Director of Health and the orders being issued, and there has to be an end game to these orders. Presently there is no end in sight to these orders and micromanagement of our daily independent lives. There also is no end in sight to the declared 'state of emergency' in the State of Ohio. There needs to be input from the citizens of Ohio through our elected representatives in the General Assembly on any/all orders being issued to the populace.

I have been impacted by these ever-changing orders in my humble life. I am a homeschooling mom who has seen program after program cancelled since March 13, 2020. My now fourth grade son enjoys various MetroPark homeschool programs throughout the Cleveland, Lake, and Summit County Metropark systems. Since March 13, all of our registered programs have been cancelled, thus causing a detriment to the homeschool education that I provide my son. I also work a part-time job at a local fast food restaurant. I was working all along complying with the ever changing "rules" to how I show up to work and prove that I am fit to work that day. I have been placed on a leave of absence since April 28, 2020, since the State of Ohio ordered that all employees wear face coverings. Knowing that these face coverings do not protect the wearer and could cause adverse effects on the wearer, I am choosing not to comply with the mandate forcing me not to work.

It truly is a shame what is happening in the State of Ohio. For many of us, the cure is definitely worse than the disease. I trust that you and your colleagues are ready to end the orders and all of the games now for the citizens of this great state, and, with your support, Senate Bill 311 is a step in the right direction.

Respectfully yours,  
Catherine R. Loya