

June 23, 2020

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and honorable members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee.

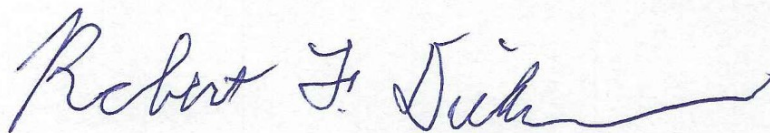
My name is Robert Dickman. As a concerned Ohioan who has seen the negative effects that have been caused by the emergency orders of the past three months and supports greater checks and balances when it comes to government or government agencies, I urge you to vote "yes" on SB311.

I personally have asthma as well as seasonal allergies and other more serious allergies that negatively impact my ability to breathe even under normal circumstances. Being forced to wear a mask at work and while going about my day puts my health in serious risk. I am deeply concerned that Governor Mike Dewine and Amy Acton have the right to declare that I don't have the right to breathe and that businesses are being encouraged, under threat of closure or fine, to uphold these safety "guidelines".

I'm not going to spout science because I'm sure you can access the numbers if you so choose, but although this virus has a faster rate of spread it is no more deadly than any other flu. Although they love keeping tallies of infected and death rates since official day one of the virus the real numbers say that only 2% of the US citizens that die this year will die of this. To me that puts the millions that have been temporarily or permanently put out of work in perspective.

Most of the small businesses around my area were forced to shut down for several months and only allowed to reopen under strict totalitarian guidelines. Even now most of them are only allowed to remain open if they force employees to wear masks, reduce occupancy to ¼ normal, and post signs coercing their customers to wear masks and remain 6 feet apart at all times. These rules make it either impossible or nearly so for a small business to remain in operation. Decisions like these being made and allowed to remain permanently in effect without being passed as laws is an unacceptable breach of trust. They should be capped at two weeks and then be forced to be reviewed and voted on at regular intervals. Thank you for your time and patience.

I once again urge you to vote "yes" on SB311.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert F. Dickman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Dickman  
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