

June 24, 2020

Camie McCorkle written testimony for SB311

Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and honorable members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee. My name is Camie McCorkle. I am a concerned Ohioan writing to ask for a “yes” vote on SB311 which will rescind certain orders of the Health Director and require further oversight from legislative committee for any Health Director orders extending past 14 days. I work as a licensed registered nurse at a large hospital although currently since May, I am now on unpaid leave of absence. Dr. Acton’s orders resulted in certain surgeries and procedures being put on hold and I was informed by my employer that I would be on unpaid leave until August but that it may be shortened or lengthened based on business needs.

Ohioans were originally told by Governor DeWine that the extreme measures being taken were to slow the spread of the coronavirus and were only to last for two weeks and that this was to prevent a projected emergency based on models which predicted hospitals becoming overburdened. For a projected emergency and not an actual one, across the state of Ohio, patients were denied healthcare and workers were prevented from earning a living all on the word of the unelected Director of Health, Dr. Acton. It is difficult to believe that the role of Director of Health was ever intended to have such power over the lives of Ohioans, to decide who is “essential” and who is “non-essential” as a worker and to decide whose healthcare is necessary and whose is not. Dr. Acton was so laser focused on one health issue that she did not seem to be concerned with the other issues she created for people with her orders. This is apparent to me knowing that patients have had procedures, surgeries, and appointments delayed, which in some cases resulted in poor health outcomes. Unemployment has further contributed to poor health of Ohioans with all the stress and depression that goes along with it, as has been acknowledged by many medical experts, and as I read in a Columbus Dispatch article, calls to mental health and addiction crisis hotlines have been increased during this time. To help protect the health and liberty of Ohioans, I ask you to please vote yes on SB311.

Thank you,

Camie McCorkle