



Representative Scott Wiggam

1st House District

Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 90.

The purpose of this legislation is to restore checks and balances and reconstitute the separation of powers between the branches of government.

This bill has two parts.

First, it creates the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee, which will consist of ten members: Republicans and Democrats, from both the House and the Senate. The committee will be tasked with overseeing and advising on actions taken by all executive branch departments related to a public health state of emergency. The committee will have the ability, by majority vote, to rescind a special or standing order or rule similar to how the Joint Committee on Agency Review functions.

The second part of this bill permits the General Assembly to alter, rescind, or extend executive branch orders and rules, including any emergency declaration, through a concurrent resolution. The bill also subjects existing orders and rules issued by the executive branch to

review and rescission by the General Assembly and Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee.

It is vital that the Department of Health and the executive branch are able to act in a timely manner to an emergency. However, as we've witnessed for nearly a year, these orders have been constantly extended with no oversight or insight from the legislature giving the executive branch the ability to serve as the legislature. This legislation gives the General Assembly a much needed seat at the table. With the enactment of this bill, the legislature will be able to hold public hearings and hear input from our constituents as well as perspective from subject matter experts.

House Bill 90 is a companion bill to Senate Bill 22, which during its first hearing received nearly 400 proponent testimonies, from medical professionals, business owners, and concerned citizens. This type of public input is what the Executive Branch's orders should receive.

Where our legislation differentiates from Senate Bill 22 is that it expands the ability of the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee and the General Assembly to be able to review all orders from the Executive Branch and not just those from the Governor and the Department of Health. Our legislation also has a shorter time for the General Assembly to act prior to the orders expiring.

Thank you all for your time and at this point I am going to pass it along to my Joint Sponsor Representative Edwards.