

**Ohio's 94<sup>th</sup> District**  
Athens County  
Meigs County  
Vinton County (part)  
Washington County (part)



**Committees**  
(Chair) Economic & Workforce  
Development  
Finance  
Families, Aging and Human  
Services  
Technology and Innovation

**Jay Edwards  
State Representative**

Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, members of the House State and Local Government Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 90.

In the interest of time, I won't restate Chairman Wiggam's overview of this legislation. But I do want to share with you why it's important.

I ran for the Ohio House of Representatives to give Southeast Ohio a stronger voice at the Statehouse. That's a responsibility I take seriously. And that's what House Bill 90 is about.

Since the onset of the pandemic here in Ohio last year, we have passed legislation to support Ohio workers, schools and businesses, health care professionals, first responders and more. We have worked to safely reopen our economy and our schools.

We have also worked to ensure there is appropriate legislative oversight of orders issued by the executive branch and to ensure Ohioans' voices – our constituents' voices – are heard.

That is why we are here today.

Too often, this debate has devolved into political theater, with heated rhetoric that overshadows the important checks and balances that exist in our form of government. There is a natural tension between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. This is healthy and helps protect the rights of Ohioans.

House Bill 90 strikes an important balance. On one hand, it continues to allow the executive branch to respond to emergencies and protect Ohioans in times of crisis. But it also says that authority is not unlimited – and, just as important, it better ensures our constituents' voices are heard.

After all, that is why we are here: To ensure that the voices of those we represent are heard here at the Statehouse.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Chairman Wiggam and I are happy to answer any questions you may have.

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