

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairman John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the State and Local Government Reform Committee,  
I am testifying today in favor of HB 90 because the emergency powers that Governor DeWine has kept in place for nearly a year have scarred my own family, businesses, jobs, the economy, senior citizens, and the children of our state. An emergency short in nature, and not a year of endless restrictions on free people.  
I work as a special education aide, a job I sincerely love, but this year has been difficult. All day I see faceless children with only eyes in the hallways. They are masked behind folding windows at their desk. They wear masks in gym and even at recess. They are just following the rules for school but childhood should be as carefree as possible, without the burden of teaching kids that they are harmful vectors of disease. I follow the rules because I need the income, they are being taught a much bigger lesson about how the government can limit their lives. I do not wish to be considered sick until proven healthy and children should not have to live that way either.

I have been personally harmed by the mandates put forward by Governor DeWine and ODH. When schools were shut down in the spring of 2020, I began shopping and delivering groceries for a delivery service to help people at risk from the virus. I was able to shop without a mask through July. Then the mandatory mask order was issued. I tried to continue my shopping job but found I could not wear a mask. I went to the doctor to discuss my medical issue. I also worried about how I would return to working at the school if I was required to wear a mask. I suffer from a condition where wearing a mask is likely to make me visit the emergency room. Thankfully, at that time, my physician understood and wrote a note to be able to use an open shield. It was a relief because the school rules said I needed a note to use a shield at work. Several weeks went by and I went for a follow up appointment with my physician. I wore my shield, but my doctor's office kicked me out of their waiting room and terminated service with me because I refused to wear a cloth mask as diagnosed by their office. They would not honor the note they wrote exempting me from wearing cloth masks. Over time, even using the open shield has caused health issues but I have no doctor to follow up with.

Based on science, I don't believe any consumer masks work, but the recommendations on face coverings have slowly been changing to make compliance more and more uncomfortable for all. Gator style face coverings, shields, and breathable masks are unacceptable. It seems I will likely never fly again if masks continue to be mandatory. I have had to put off medical specialist appointments, hair appointments, and I can not enter stores without risking confrontation. I contracted Covid 19 in December, 2020 and had no doctor to follow my illness. My job could be jeopardized because days off work due to face covering symptoms, require a doctor note. I've tried to find another doctor, but I am being blackballed and denied by other doctors as soon as my records are requested. I now suffer from depression because the mandates continue with no end to mandatory masking. The activities that brought joy to my life are now nonexistent.

I have watched my son miss out on his college education because of Governor Dewine's excessive lockdowns. My son has dwarfism, which has always put him at a

disadvantage socially. He looked forward to college, where he would be exposed to more social circles and opportunities for respect through his classes. He joined a fraternity to increase social opportunities even more. He spent the better part of his sophomore year at home doing online classes through Bowling Green State University. During the fall semester, although he was back on campus, he was mostly isolated in his dorm, with weird socialization rules that mostly confined him to a small group of people. The college constantly warned of the dangers and harsh punishment for unapproved socializing, something he craves the most. Unfortunately, like many high school and college students, his grades suffered from remote learning and all the rules that are contrary to human existence.

Health recommendations by the government should have remained recommendations. Lives of all ages have been adversely affected by heavy handed mandates against Ohio citizens. Please pass HB90, end mandatory masking, and send healthcare decisions back to a patient and their own doctor where they belong.

Thank you for your time,  
Patricia Klein  
Findlay, Ohio