

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairman John, Ranking Member Kelly , and members of the State and Local Government Reform Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony as a proponent for HB 90. I am testifying because I feel that the overriding power of one arm of our government has allowed for more harm than benefit. The cost of protecting individuals from the affects of SARS-CoV2 has become higher than the benefits from the measures taken to 'slow the spread' and 'flatten the curve'. The death rate from the virus itself no longer outweighs the harm done in terms of other causes of death, cost of liberties, loss of livelihoods, declining mental health, and so much more. The small and large ways that every individual has been affected by the mitigating measures have rippling effects throughout our communities. For our children in schools that are learning speech and language and social cues, they can no longer see the faces that they need to learn. Teenagers are losing milestones in athletics and activities like prom and graduations. Teachers and other school employees cannot report abuse that they cannot see. Quarantining students often means they are isolated from peers and activities while not receiving instruction from their teachers. They have to teach it to themselves and come back to school caught up and take tests with everyone else. Did you know that if a student is exposed, they are quarantined for 24 days in our school district? One of my friends started a new business in 2020 and was not eligible for PPP benefits because he had no prior years to show documented loss. His business is permanently closed and his life savings is lost. My daughter chose to resign from her job instead of submitting to weekly COVID testing to avoid the consequences of a possible false positive that would remove her from school and sports and remove me and my husband from our jobs. Why are we testing healthy people? My dad's medical treatment was delayed while he waited for results from his required COVID test. When it returned positive, his treatment was further delayed so they could arrange a COVID facility for his treatment. He was also preparing for a surgery at that time which became delayed. Both medical treatments maintained his fluid balance. Without them, he ended up in the hospital on a ventilator because he could not breathe with the excess fluid. When does the prevention of ONE possible adverse variable in our lives override all other considerations. Life is more than a virus that at this point may, at its worst, be in line with the seasonal flu. Please pass HB 90 so that there is more oversight and input into the policies being put into place. People are needlessly suffering from overreaching practices. Please vote YES for HB 90.

Thank you,
Susan Wilson