

February 16, 2021

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

My name is Tom Hach, and I am the Executive Director of Free Ohio Now, a state-wide grassroots organization. I am testifying today in favor of House Bill 90 . The actions currently being taken under the existing emergency powers law and the dire effects they are having on all of us has caused me and the members of the organization I represent to be deeply concerned.

A constitutional republic, such as ours, can successfully represent the best interests of the people only when the co-equal, separate branches of government jealously defend their constitutionally derived powers, rights and responsibilities.

Today, Ohio's Governor exercises unbridled emergency powers which threaten the very notion of what it means to have a constitutional republic. House Bill 90, when passed into law, will re-balance the powers between the branches of government during a declared emergency, and will restore the people's voice in the process through their elected representatives.

No matter what positions we are in today, all of us are temporary. Given the temporary nature of life, all of us have a duty to future generations to leave the world in a better place than when we inherited it. Right now the well-being of our communities, the viability of our economy and the future of our children are on the line. Our state cannot thrive under the continued unchecked and unilateral orders of our Governor.

Please stand up and protect our personal liberties and the future of our state by voting YES on House Bill 90!

Thank you,

Thomas Hach
Executive Director
Free Ohio Now

