

February 17, 2021

Dear Chair Wiggam, Vice chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and the Honored Members of the House State and Local Government Reform Committee,

I am writing to encourage your support for House Bill 90 because something has to be done to stop any further damage to the economy, personal lives, and well-being of every Ohioan over the past year.

I understood Governor Mike Dewine's decisions in the beginning of the Covid situation early in 2020. Little was known about the Covid virus and it appeared to be a very dangerous threat to everyone. When little is known and there appears to be a dangerous threat, it makes sense when dramatic measures are taken. I appreciated his regular communication and information sharing as events unfolded, in the beginning. I understood his pleas for everyone to make sacrifices and assurances that we were "all in this together". I had compassion that he appeared to feel responsible for the death of Ohioans due to Covid and was acting from that good place in his heart to do whatever he could to keep everyone safe and healthy.

In the time that has passed, however, the governor has said the words "science" and "data" countless times without using any sound versions of such to support his decisions. Instead, he has used ill-conceived collections of information and graphic representations of such to invoke widespread panic and irrational fear, destroy the economy for small businesses, kill more Ohioans than his imaginary number that have been saved, crush the joy out of life and unleash a profound negative impact on the mental health and relationships of just about everyone in the state. The "cure" has been worse than the disease.

Thus far, my family and I have sacrificed :

- My job, which provided time for me to get out of the house, earn a little money to pay for my children's homeschooling costs, and gave me impetus to improve my own health. I worked 8 hours a week watching people's children while they worked out at the gym where I am a member. That space has now been re-allocated as a 'mask-only' work area, and NEVER has anyone in it. There were about 10 other women that I worked with who also now do not have those jobs, with no plans to re-institute that service for gym members.
- My children's participation in 4-H meetings. These were moved to the less effective Zoom platform (and eventually fizzled out) for my children.
- My children's participation in the many hands-on programs at the Cleveland Metroparks, the Zoo, the Art Museum, Natural History Museum, the Cleveland Playhouse.
- My children's participation in a community musical performance. Hours and months of work fell flat as much later, they performed a truncated schedule of performances with

half the audience, half the performers, while donning uncomfortable and obstructive face shields. It was not fun for them, but better than nothing.

- Enjoyment of our county fair. My children would have presented a project and my husband would have earned some extra money as a presenter and spent time sharing his plant hobby with others.
- The above all represent very robust additions to our home education. The homeschool groups and communities we have enjoyed have all similarly suffered in terms of our relationships with one another and ability to connect/encourage one another in this challenging lifestyle we have gladly chosen.
- Shopping at stores/eating out. Wearing a mask makes me irrationally angry. I sincerely believe that there is both a psychological and biological basis for this. It pains me to see everyone covering up their faces, and touching their face masks to adjust them, wearing them below their noses in the name of 'compliance' and without the logical and reasonable benefit of actual scientific evidence that proves that wearing a face covering does any good for anyone. In fact, there are real, actual scientific studies (as opposed to physics demonstrations not even using humans as subjects) that PROVE that in most instances, prolonged mask wearing actually has ill effects on human health. Yet, decisions are being made based on physics demonstrations, memes with people peeing on someone, and explanations from 'experts' that frankly do not make sense to any thinking person. Please see the attached analysis of past scientific research studies with regard to masks.
- One of my daughter's health. She always get a sore throat when she wears masks for prolonged periods of time. It doesn't matter if she changes masks or is hyper vigilant about the cleanliness of the mask. She has suffered with strep throat a number of times this year as a result.
- Meeting in person with my spiritual support community at my church this past year and ministering to others with them. My children missed out on the same.
- Use of the library my property taxes support - with only drive through service and a cranky staff person who yells at me to wear a mask in my car and roll down the back window so she can put my reserved materials in my vehicle.
- Participating in grieving and a funeral for my brother in law, and comforting my sister and niece in that loss.
- Participating in and grieving for the death of the father of one of my best friends, whom I had known for 25 years.
- Visiting a childhood friend in hospice before she passed.
- My family gathering together. They are too afraid of getting sick. Mother's Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, all of our birthday celebrations and Christmas. We missed spending them all together, and our family is drifting apart.
- My husband's health. He had been working from home for 10 months. He was called back to work at the Cleveland Clinic and contracted Covid the week he reluctantly returned. He was not at all thrilled about the idea of returning to in-person work at the place where all the sick people were congregating to be tested and treated, especially since his immune system had not been getting a regular work out for so long. Thankfully, he has since recovered. But he did suffer Covid-pneumonia and the clinic considered

placing him on short-term disability. For all these precautions and mitigation, we all still contracted Covid – and WE LIVED; as happens with the majority of Covid cases!

- My own health. A wellness workout group I participated in at my church has been canceled indefinitely. The gains of health and well-being from hard work to lose weight, improve my nutrition and strength through exercise has fallen by the wayside with closure of the gym I frequent (and worked at), limited hours, being required to wear a mask while there.
- My faith in elected officials. In May, I sent my State representatives an e-mail asking them when they supposed this madness was going to end. I received a canned, very vanilla “form” response from one. I received no response from the other rep. I will be voting for neither of those people when given the chance in the future.

Our beautiful, wonderful, rich lives have been reduced to socialization with Flat Stanleys on Zoom, and weary, crabby, fearful, paranoid in-person interactions on those occasions when they can happen.

**MY FAMILY AND I HAVE EXHAUSTED OUR WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE FOR WHAT HAS BEEN LEARNED TO BE A COMMON VIRUS.**

People who are well should not be assumed to be asymptomatic carriers of a virus. It is not fair. It is not right. It is not reasonable. It is not even productive. Those who are frail, worried, compromised should be encouraged to take their own precautions. They should be supported. Accommodations should be made for those persons. We should act to protect their interests, but NOT at the cost of the entire economy of the state, a true version of normal, and thus, the whole of everyone’s well-being; physical and mental. And especially not to the exclusion of sound science and viable, trustworthy data.

These are the examples of where decisions based on unsound data has led to unfortunate, yet avoidable outcomes (as supported by sound data):

- The models that drove the governor's stay at home orders and business closures to "flatten the curve" in the beginning were later proven to be grossly faulty. Hospitals were never overwhelmed. In fact, hospitals were struck with a negative financial impact so dire that they began to lay off staff.
- Medical treatments and procedures were canceled as hospitals braced for the expected flooding of Covid patients that never came, resulting in vast sea suffering for those who needed that delayed care.

- Increase in teen suicides due to lack of normal human interaction, and I surmise increased opportunity for cyber bullying
- Increase in elder deaths due to lack of normal human interaction
- Increase in mental health needs of a large percentage of population of Ohio, due to financial stress, fear, anxiety, business loss, lack of normal human interaction
- Business income loss for bars/restaurants related to curfews, unfunded mandates, forced decrease in ability to serve customers - when there was NO data linked to bars and restaurants being vectors for the spread of disease
- Halted learning for all children in Ohio, no matter their mode of education. We home educate, yet the stress associated with not being able to socialize with our friends, attend community learning opportunities, go on field trips has had a negative impact on our educational year
- All state mask mandates related to moving targets of case counts when a 'case' was not reasonably or clearly defined

Because the governor's decisions have dragged on for so long, it is now possible to compare the data from other countries and other states who made different leadership decisions in attempts to mitigate this virus. Take Sweden, for example. They are comparable to Ohio in demographics. Government leadership there did NOT implement any measures even remotely close to what Governor Dewine has imposed on everyone in terms of shut downs, curfews, limiting gatherings, forcing businesses to be the 'mask police', etc. In making this comparison, one must reasonably conclude that all of the harm that has been caused by closing businesses to 'flatten the curve', mandating masks based on foolish criteria and counting cases, putting curfews in place, closing schools, churches, libraries, shutting down community events, etc. was not worth anything that was gained because clearly Ohio has not fared any better in terms of the spread of and deaths associated with Covid 19. In fact, metrics related to mental health, non-Covid deaths, and other statistics have all significantly worsened as a result.

In closing, I do hope that HB 90 is not just some window dressing gesture, but that whomever is elected or appointed to this 'bi-partisan' committee actually works to engage the services of data experts who know what they are doing and can provide solid, sound data to be used for making decisions, especially decisions that will deprogram the brainwashing fear that has been pounded into everyone's minds. It will take far more than assigning 5 mental health counselors to all of the school districts in the state.

Might I suggest Katherine Huwig and Dr. Douglas G. Frank? They are two people who I have been following thus far that have been giving me at least some modicum of hope that the entire population of the state of Ohio has not gone mad.

Dr. Frank has been collecting and sharing data related to the 'health emergency' from the beginning on various platforms. You can find recordings of his "post-depressers" on his YouTube channel, here:

[Dr. Douglas G. Frank Post De-Presser Sessions](#)

Sincerely,

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