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 as an Ohio voter deeply concerned about courses of action being taken under the current emergency powers.

This bill is a step in the right direction toward restoring us to a functioning three-branch government, giving the right of representation to the people of Ohio via their legislators during a declared emergency, after a period of time.

I am concerned for the future of our great state and the good people who live here if the whims of a few men can determine what we wear from one day to the next, where we go, whether we can open our businesses, whether our medical information is private, and what medical procedures or devices we must be subjected to. It is disgraceful that emergency powers have been allowed to go on for almost an entire year; this goes against the spirit and letter of existing Ohio law. The data we have also shows that the actions of the executive branch and ODH have caused incredible harm to our state but have not had the desired effect of reducing COVID deaths. I have undergone harm to my personal mental health and watched friends and family face the same anxiety, depression, disconnection from others, and ongoing worry for their own health, the health of others, or the loss of relationships because of disagreement. The spirit of fear and isolation being, not only encouraged, but mandated is only one form of destruction that I've personally experienced because of the governor's mandates. So much destruction has been caused--from huge increases in drug overdoses in Ohio's great cities to raising suicide rates among school-aged children to skyrocketing unemployment and the closing of small businesses all over the state. This overreach cannot be allowed to happen again unchecked and it must end now.

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

Thank you,
Amanda Brindley