

GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT AND REFORM COMMITTEE

WITNESS TESTIMONY: ANN MANZI

I am writing in support of HB 90. We need to restore the balance of power in our State government. Governor DeWine has inflicted tremendous damage on the citizens of this state with his mandates and restrictions. The most abused and hurt group of citizens, in my opinion, are our children! I will be using this testimony to express how my own children have been harmed during this so-called pandemic:

I have two children: One is seventeen and in high school and the other is ten and in fifth grade. My high school daughter has spent most of her sophomore year learning online – isolated in her room on the computer not socializing with friends. She would occasionally text her friends and have conversations but would not be able to meet up with any of them personally because of the FEAR our governor has instilled in our society. As a result, she went through periods of depression and anxiety. I ended up quitting my job so that I could spend as much time with her as possible to help her overcome her depression. My ten-year-old son experienced similar periods of depression and anxiety with his schooling this year. In the elementary school in which he attends, all the students must wear a mask, sit in plexiglass cubicles, follow arrows when walking in the hallway, and refrain from using lockers or cubbies to store their supplies for FEAR of coming in contact with each other and catching Covid. This situation has been extremely horrible for my son who is a happy-go-lucky and very social child! He is being told daily that he cannot be near and have fun with his friends. As a result, he now hates going to school! I have to have a pep talk with him every morning and drive him to school to help him overcome his anxiety and depression. He does not smile anymore and that brings me to tears! I want my son back!!

Please pass HB 90 and allow my children to be kids again!