

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

My name is Christy Benhase and I am a constituent of Representative Kelly's district (Madisonville), as well as a nurse at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. As a nurse, I take COVID-19 seriously. I also, however, take the exorbitant suffering caused by the Governor & Health Directors' mandates very seriously. I believe HB90 strikes a better balance by maintaining the Governor's executive powers for emergent threats, but also providing the checks and balances of the legislature. One or two individuals, even with good intent, should not be making statewide decisions for over 11 months without any involvement of elected local representatives. As Ohioans, we need all branches of government to collaborate in fighting this disease instead of the current unilateral approach.

Newton's law states that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. I wholeheartedly believe that Governor DeWine's mandates have been well-intentioned, with the goal of improving public health. Unfortunately, they have been short-sighted, and the other side of the equation has not been adequately acknowledged. I have experienced several negative health outcomes as a consequence of the mandates and restrictions. In many cases, the harm caused by the restrictions has been greater than the intended benefit.

I strongly encourage you to support this bill.
Thank you for your time,

Christine E. Benhase MSN RN