

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: February 15, 2021

Name: Debra Boffey, BSN, RN

Are you representing: Myself

Organization (If Applicable):

Position/Title: Post Anesthesia Care Unit staff nurse

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? **Yes**

Business before the committee HB 90

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): Specific Issue: Establishment of an Ohio Health Oversight/Advisory Committee

Are you testifying as a: **Proponent**

This is a written statement to be read for me by Stephanie Stock as I am out of state.

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? Please provide a brief statement on your position: approx. 4.5 minutes to read

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. I am not a public speaker nor one who loves the limelight, but were it not for the fact that I am out of state, I would be delivering this message in person in order that you might feel my passion.

I am one of the tens of thousands of health care professionals who are outraged by the devastation caused by the over-reaction to COVID-19. In the beginning we understood the need for caution with this novel virus. It soon became evident that something was very wrong, and many of us began questioning and investigating. It has now been almost a year since the lockdowns and mandates began. What was to be 14 days to flatten the curve has turned into a nightmare. Public health is about **all** health, not just infectious disease. In the past we have quarantined the sick and sheltered the vulnerable and frail. We have never locked down an entire society. Since the time of Hippocrates, a case has always been a sick person. Now we are calling healthy, asymptomatic people "cases" using a test that is run at a cycle threshold that is too high to be reliable. I follow the news and social media in frustration as I see qualified healthcare professionals maligned and censored for disagreeing with the official narrative. I watched the entire US Senate Hearing on Early Outpatient Treatment for COVID-19 on November 19, 2020 and December 8, 2020 for a total of 5 hours. **Highly** qualified doctors on

the front line of research and bedside treatment of COVID patients testified to the effectiveness of repurposed, FDA approved drugs, treatment algorithms and other therapies for early treatment which is crucial for the prevention of the devastating effects this disease has on the elderly and those with comorbidities. I was outraged when I read the the articles written after those two hearings. The ranking member's witness, a doctor who admitted that he had never treated a COVID-19 patient, wrote an article in the New York Times calling these doctors "snake-oil salesmen" uninterested in science who were spreading disinformation. Other articles were just as condemning and misleading. We have allowed politicians, bureaucrats, and academics to manage this pandemic without listening to the frontline doctors who are actually caring for these people. The very healthcare professionals who are seeing what works and what doesn't.

This is why I passionately urge you to pass HB 90 to restore the balance of power where it should be. We the people want our voices heard, not censored, via the legislators that we have elected. As Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. stated, "...we want leadership but we don't want bullying. And we know the difference between bullying and leadership." Leadership that listens to us. Leadership faithful to their oath of office to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States and the state of Ohio. We want leadership that allows for transparency and input from frontline doctors and others in the scientific community other than those chosen by the executive branch and the state health department.

This prolonged, overreaction has caused untold damage: loss of jobs/property/businesses; children falling behind in school; delayed medical treatment and screening; dramatically increased suicide rate, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic and child abuse including child predation; horrible elder abuse of those in nursing homes and assisted living facilities where they are isolated from family and in some cases from others in their residences; the fear and isolation that patients feel when admitted to the hospital, not knowing if they will see their families again, and families that cannot comfort, support, and advocate for hospitalized loved ones. These aren't just statistics for me and my colleagues. These are real people that we see and care for every shift. Joel Salatin wrote, "We humans are social beings; isolation has been used to punish people, break people, and as a form of torture since the dawn of civilization." This outrage has all been done to "flatten the curve" for a disease that has a 99.9% survival rate for most people.

Protect the weak and vulnerable, but let the rest of us get on with living our lives. To you elected officials, understand that we reject the "new normal" being pushed on us by some politicians, bureaucrats, technocrats, and academics. As healthcare professionals and as parents, we will NEVER stop advocating for the rights of our patients and our children.

Sincerely and Passionately,

Debra J. Boffey, BSN,RN