

Dr. Michelle Yan
Bay Village, Ohio

House State and Local Government Committee

Chairman Scott Wiggam, Vice-chair Marilyn John, Ranking member Kelly, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to write a testimony in support of HB 90. My husband Dominic Vechiarelli and I have owned a small business in Westlake, Ohio for over 18 years. We are chiropractic physicians specializing in pregnant moms, children and family care and many of our families share our same concerns.

I am testifying today in favor of HB 90 as an Ohio resident deeply concerned about courses of action being taken under the current emergency powers and the extremely concerning effects it is having on all of us. We are approaching the one year mark since this pandemic began yet no mandates have been lifted even though there have been significant decreases in death rates, and studies regarding how low the impact COVID 19 has been on groups such as children and infants.

As business owners, health care providers, parents and Ohioans we are concerned about the current power and authority individuals have taken during the COVID 19 pandemic. We are concerned about the economic ramifications, social and emotional issues that have arisen in Ohio and we are a proponent of HB 90.

Many of our patients are business owners just like us. We have been blessed to be deemed “essential” and have been working but saw a reduced volume of patients by 50-60% in the first 8 weeks of the pandemic in 2020. My patients were telling me, “if my business can’t open soon, I will have to close. I am stressed and depressed.” Many others were concerned about how they were going to feed their children because they were either not working or working reduced hours.

March will signify the first anniversary of this pandemic lockdown, but shouldn’t we be asking why we are still in this same predicament? Governor DeWine originally said that if we wore masks for 6 weeks back in the summer of 2020, we could flatten this virus. It is almost one year later, yet we still have a mask mandate in effect and now the CDC wants people to wear two masks. As health care providers, we believe the science is not matching what the Governor and the previous Ohio Director of Health are relating to Ohioans. It is common to protect the sick but to mask everyone including the healthy and the young have never happened until COVID 19 began. Mandating masks have not helped the spread of COVID 19. Apparently, it had been worsening each day as the Governor revised his mask mandate policy on 11/11/2020. The WHO states “the wide use of masks by healthy people ... is not supported by current evidence and carries uncertainties and critical risks.... There is no current evidence to make a recommendation for or against their use.” “Currently we are not finding any data that can quantify risk reduction from the use of masks”, a CDC spokesperson told Reuters. The British Medical Journal state in April 2020 that “Face masks make breathing more difficult. For people with COPD, face masks

are in fact intolerable to wear as they worsen their breathlessness. Moreover, a fraction of carbon dioxide previously exhaled is inhaled at each respiratory cycle.”

As parents, we are concerned about the education and the future of our children. In March 2020, when Governor DeWine closed all schools in Ohio, it was incredibly difficult to work and teach our children when we returned home. In the fall of 2020, our children were “lucky” enough to attend private schools so they have been able to go in person but are subjected to wearing masks. Many of my patients who are teachers are very frustrated and stressed. They are either teaching remotely or going in some days and staying home other days in the hybrid system. They say that learning has severely been impacted. Students need social interaction with friends and teachers. Parents who come in to see me say their children are struggling because they are unmotivated at home. Parents say their children are depressed, anxious and have had poor behavior since this school year has started. Depression and suicidal rates have increased. Children see their homes as places to rest and play and not to a place to watch a computer screen 8 hours a day as a replacement for school. Now some school districts want mass vaccinations before returning to school but research has shown that school aged children pose very to little risk of getting and transmitting COVID 19. Also, once you have had a coronavirus or COVID 19, your body builds antibodies and immunity to these viruses therefore protecting you.

My husband’s great grandparents and my parents are immigrants. My parents left communist China to give me “a better life.” It is ironic and extremely concerning that all the freedoms and liberties that our forefathers so desperately fought for are the same ones being taken away from us as we speak.

This bill restores the balance of power of our government, and finally gives Ohioans a voice via their legislators during a declared emergency. Our businesses, our economy, our social and emotional well-being and the future of our children is on the line. Our state cannot thrive under the continued oppressive and unopposed orders of our over-reaching Governor.

Thank you for allowing me to give my written testimony.

Sincerely,
Dr. Michelle Yan