

Gina Hayward
HB 90
State and Local Government Committee
2/16/2021

Chairman Wiggam, Vice-Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and the Honorable members of the State and Local Government Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit proponent testimony regarding HB 90.

At first, I didn't think I had enough of a testimony and wasn't going to write one. But as a friend pointed out, my life has been affected in ways I never thought possible because of the unrelenting orders of the governor and the health director.

First off, because of all the fear being spread, I have been cut off from seeing my parents, who will not leave their home in Indiana unless it's absolutely necessary. I have also been prevented from seeing my in-laws who live in Canada because of the unnecessary border closure and tight travel regulations. I have no idea when I will see them again. I realize this isn't a result of the state mandates per se, but because of the perpetuation of fear, we have caused similar problems here in Ohio.

I used to love getting dressed up and going out and socializing in public. I can no longer do that. Instead, my life has turned into wearing sweatpants and sweatshirts and staying at home. Why? Not because I am afraid....but because I can't stand looking at all the masked faces everywhere you go. Faces are no longer familiar. Facial expressions and smiles are things of the past. It's depressing, actually. And entering businesses where there are "mask police" at the door has become less than welcoming. Businesses are missing out on my business because of the unnecessary accommodations they want me to make.

I've already had COVID. I'm not a threat. Yet everyone is supposed to indiscriminately wear a mask everywhere they go. There are hundreds of thousands more like me. Why aren't we allowed to go about the community as usual again? Studies now show that immunity will probably last years. Evidence shows that people infected with SARS-Cov-1 still showed T-cell immunity 17 years later. This virus is 79% similar to SARS-Cov-1, so why should we expect much different? Why are we trying to subdue the fear in the public by "being good citizens" and wearing masks, when actually it is perpetuating the fear? Why am I being discriminated against? Why are we all sick until proven healthy? It has never worked that way.

Why should my kids be forced to wear masks? They too have already had COVID and are not a threat to society. Has there ever been a study showing the safety and long term issues associated with all day cloth mask wearing in children? How about in adults? My sister, who is a dental hygienist, has been completely fatigued from her days of work, since she has to double mask PLUS wear a face shield. She too likely had COVID back in February before widespread testing was available, and has her

immunity. Now her health is suffering because she is hardly allowed to breathe air all day long while at work. She gets frequent headaches and is more fatigued than normal.

I am thankful that my husband hasn't been put out of work, but the stark reality is that 9 million small businesses (nearly one-third of those in the US) fear that they won't survive 2021. What are we going to do if 9 million small businesses go under? Do you realize how many people that will put out of work? You can't possibly have enough money to pay for the unemployment of all these people....particularly after the unemployment fraud of \$330 million in Ohio alone. To put families in this position is far more destructive than the COVID virus could ever be.

The government needs to stop the reign of terror being brought against the state and the continual movement of the goalposts that are done in order to maintain the state of emergency. We have been out of a state of emergency for months. To insist that we need to keep it in order to receive federal funding is a disaster. Let people go back to work and get the economy going so there is less unemployment and you won't need federal funds.

This whole situation is one big overreaction for something that has a 99.5% survival rate in people up to age 70. We need the help of the legislature to stop the governor from micromanaging our lives and ruining the lives of our children. The future of our country is at stake if we continue to allow our constitutional freedoms to be taken away.

Sincerely,

Gina Hayward

References:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2550-z>

<https://www.theblaze.com/news/small-businesses-wont-survive-2021>