

I am writing in support of legislation to set some limits on the state wide edicts implimented by the governor one year ago. An emergency requires shprt term limited action not an ongoing suppression of rights.

We were given a totally inaccurate assessment by the governor's health director at the time because she misread the data. Now we have an accurate understanding of the virus and the people who are most affected by it. Intervention on behalf of that targeted population with appropriate measures should have ended the emergency. Unfortunately it didn't and the governor continued to ignore data to perpetuate his Febrauary 2020 perception.

As businesses and peoples' lives continued to be ruined because of the governor's orders, he has continued his unilateral management of the state without input from the legislature. He continues to claim that we are just one week away from armageddon. The facts do not bare this out. He has gone so far as to misrepresent his own state data on many occasions in order to maintain his control. We really are no longer sure of how many "cases" we have. Since October, fully 1/3 of all "cases" have not been laboratory confirmed. These cases have been identified by symptoms only. Because of this, there is no flu or severe respiratory infections, only Covid cases.

This emergency has been perpetuated by interested parties like the Ohio Hospital Association whose federal covid reimbursment continues to pad their bottom line while covid hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and ventilator use continues to be on a steep decline. The premise of this whole "emergency" was to protect the hospitals, not protect their bottom line.

At a human level, people have been turned into snitches by the governor as they have become his retail police agency. Retailers have refused service to people who have legitimate exemptions that were supposed to protect them from persecution.

In conclusion, DeWine may end travesty this tomorrow, but this legislation is critical to prevent this constitutional overreach from happening again. Pass HB 90.