

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 as not only an Ohio resident deeply concerned about courses of action being taken under the current "emergency powers" and the dire effects it is having on all of us, but also as a Nurse Practitioner with over 20 years of experience in healthcare. I have had significant effects from these orders, both personal and professional. This is likely to get long but I beg you to read it all and take it to heart. I have suffered through a lot in the last year and I pray you will endure my letter. I am taking time to write this, and I pray you take time to read it.

I will try to be as brief as I can, but I want you all to understand where this has affected me on a direct level first. November 30, 2019, I became engaged. My fiancé and I were planning a summer wedding. He worked at Hendrickson in Hebron and I was at that time working in the ER with a physician's group contracted with most of the hospitals in Columbus as well as working as an Independent Contractor in Substance Abuse Medication Assisted Treatment. When this all started up in February/March, which I will tell you based on what I saw in the ER was here before February 2020 (most likely October), we had to start attempting to adjust to the lockdowns and changes in our work life etc. Well, my fiancé has a history of alcoholism thanks to PTSD from the Army along with survivor's guilt related to his friend being blown up in front of him by a land mine while deployed. Long story short. He felt his freedoms being pulled away, the freedoms he fought for and lost friends for. He then had to endure losing more friends at work as they laid all but 10 guys off on his shift with NO notice. He had already been drinking more to cope. Well, the layoff triggered the survivor's guilt, and it was over at that point. He lost it. Flipped out on me. Took off, checked into a treatment facility without telling me and I had no contact with him for over 11 days. The facility kept me in the dark about the situation and 4 weeks after being there when he was fully medicated on 5 new medications, I got a Skype call, and he ended our engagement. I have not heard a word from him since that day, June 22. I did not get to tell my step kids goodbye. Nothing.

Fast forward 2 weeks. I had left the ER in the spring and was working full time in the MAT clinic. After my boss having no issues with us not wearing masks at work as we do not have close contact with patients, and I see my patient's in a private office, and they are over 6 ft from me. Suddenly she decided to get in an uproar about it. I wore my mask when I was in the open areas, but we were told if we were in our office it wasn't necessary. I have a medical condition called POTS. Long story short. A mask being worn for me causes me to

sweat profusely, causes my heart rate to become extremely high and I then will become lightheaded and extremely fatigued. I wore it as much as I could tolerate medically.

My patients were also having issues as many of them have anxiety, PTSD and some are prior trauma victims such as rape victims. Wearing a mask for them is extremely detrimental to their mental health. I placed a small sign on my desk that stated, "if you are feeling short of breath, anxious or uncomfortable, you are free to remove your mask while in my office". I did this as many were very distressed by the time, they came to see me. And many felt that since they couldn't ask to remove it. But there is medical exemptions in the mandate. I was being and advocate for my patients. Which is what I am supposed to do. I got reprimanded for this. A couple of weeks later I was fired.

I won't go on about all of the medical reason that these lockdowns aren't necessary and why the mask mandates are not appropriate in either a medical standpoint or from a freedom standpoint. But what I do want to speak on is Mental Health. The effects on Mental Health from all of these lockdowns are not even close to becoming fully seen yet. The lies that have been told by Gov DeWine are astounding. He has twisted the data to support what narrative he feels is what is best. He changes that narrative as soon as he cannot manipulate the data to support it any longer. No one has cared about the increase in suicide and overdose deaths. AA and NA members lost their meeting places. People say, "well there's online". That isn't an appropriate response. These people NEED to be with other people for their meetings. I have a coworker who had 17 years sober from alcohol. He almost drank a handful of times. He had the glass poured. 17 years of sobriety almost lost. And he hadn't even lost his job. He hadn't lost his family, his savings, his car, his home. Can you even for a second think about those that had? I had patients come to me with 4-6 years of sobriety who had relapsed because they lost their job. This caused them to have to use their savings. Then sell their car. Sell their house. Try to get an apartment that didn't work. Lost their family and ended up homeless. So, they used. 5 years of sobriety lost due to a virus with 99.97% survival. Maybe you don't understand how hard it is to get some people to sobriety and I hope you aren't one who is biased in their opinion of an addict as many are using d/t mental health issues. But getting sober for most people takes at least 5 attempts. Some upwards of 10.

Another point that I want to make before I leave you. There has been MAJOR malpractice being completed due to the use of PCR testing as a diagnostic tool and the handling of "covid" patients. I know of several cases of patients who had SEVERE medical conditions that needed treatment that without that treatment they could suffer loss of limb/life or a detrimental outcome. For instance, one was a patient who had a knee replacement, went to the ER for knee pain and swelling. Was found to have an infected knee joint that was going to require the joint to be removed surgically and antibiotics to be given. BUT she was forced to get the PCR test on

admission or NOTHING else would be done. She had NO Covid symptoms. She came back positive. Which we know isn't a true Covid positive case. And so, the surgeon wouldn't take her to surgery. Just gave her antibiotics. This patient could've lost her leg. She could have become septic and died. I have another example of the same with a lady with a spinal infection... exact same scenario. So, this patient could become paralyzed or die. "But that PCR test".

IF THIS WAS YOUR MOTHER, FATHER, SON, DAUGHTER, WIFE OR HUSBAND... I am pretty sure you would have not been ok with this treatment.

I could keep you here for hours. Since I lost my job, I have been trying to get my own office opened but, in the meantime, I went back to school and have been doing nothing but research on Covid and the Vaccines, which we are also being lied to about, but that's for another day. I wish I could have been there in person to talk directly to you, although I would have had a hard time keeping my message short. I have so much I could tell all of you and so much I'd love to sit down and talk directly with all of you about. This entire process has shocked me to my core. **I do not understand how ONE MAN has been allowed to do this.** Dr Acton's information has been proven to be wrong. We were NEVER going to have the numbers she said. She MISUNDERSTOOD a study and MISREPRESENTED it to us.

The hospitals are not overrunning, never were. I know for sure that one inner city ER had 8361 fewer ER visits in 2020 than in 2019. They admitted 2862 fewer patients from the ER in 2020 than they did in 2019. I KNOW that the physicians group I worked for DRASTICALLY cut staffing hours. We used to run with 4-5 doctors on at night along with 4 NP/PA. They now only have 1 doctor with the NP/PA staff. You cannot tell me these orders are appropriate.

This bill restores the balance of power to where it should be, between the three, COEQUAL branches of government, and finally gives a **VOICE to the PEOPLE of Ohio** via their legislators during a declared emergency.

Thank you for your time! Please stand up and protect our personal liberties and the future of our state by voting YES on HB 90!

Thank you,

Letisha E Leach, APRN, MSN, CNP

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