

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and the Honored Members of the State and Local Government Committee,

My name is Christie Combs and thank you for allowing me to provide testimony for this bill. Over the last year my family has been greatly impacted by the overreaching orders that Governor Dewine has issued for the “safety” of Ohioans. I have repeatedly been refused service at businesses because I am unable to wear a mask. Even though there is an exception for individuals with health conditions, they are concerned they will be shut down anyways because of the threats they have received from the Health Department and Governor Dewine. My sister was forced to quit her job because wearing a mask caused a heart condition to return due to lack of oxygen. Because she worked in the medical field there are no exceptions, so she is now unemployed. I am grateful to have a job where I have been able to work from home without wearing a mask, but with her experience she does not have that option. She cannot seek employment elsewhere currently because every business is required to wear masks. I have several other family members and friends who have been laid off or had hours cut due to the restrictions placed upon businesses as well.

It is imperative that Ohio has checks and balances in place to rescind these health orders and limit the power Governor Dewine has. State-wide decisions should not be made by one person alone. We need SB22 passed as soon as possible to help alleviate the many harms done to Ohio’s citizens, businesses, and economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Christie Combs