

SB 22 Opposition Testimony

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Sarah Barry, and I thank you for the time to give opposition testimony on SB 22 which also extends to its companion bill HB 90. I am opposed to this legislation for the same reasons I was opposed to SB 311, which is that it would greatly reduce the effectiveness of the Ohio Department of Health and it is heavily supported by the anti-vaccine lobby in Ohio. You may remember that this is the same anti-vax lobby that attempted to censor my testimony on SB 311. It was very ironic to watch their leader speak to this committee about allowing the public to have a voice when they literally tried to silence my voice, and as such I cannot and will not believe that they are sincere.

I and many other Ohioans take great issue with the fact that the legislature has rejected evidence based medicine and is instead taking their cues from anti-vax nurses and doctors. It is especially troubling because these so-called medical professionals are not only anti-vax, but they also endorse treatment modalities that are either useless at best or are in violation of FDA standards at worst. This harms the overall health of every Ohioan, not just the ones who end up believing in their nonsense.

I urge every member of the legislature to reconsider their relationships with these anti-vax groups and to vote no on SB 22.

Thank you for your time.

-Sarah Barry