

Dear Chairman Wiggam, Vice-chair John, Ranking member Kelly and state and local government committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as a proponent witness for HB103. I am glad to see that our representatives have been staying on top of SB22. That is an important step in the right direction and I look forward to its passage into law. There remain significant loopholes, however, that an overreaching executive branch might choose to exploit. It is my understanding that HB103 closes a few of those loop holes to further protect Ohioans.

A few key provisions in HB103 are that it reduces the duration of emergency administration rules from 120 days (much too long in this age of quick communication and technology) down to 10 days as well as preventing the governor from extending an emergency past 120 days. Furthermore, an important provision of HB103 is that it prevents a governor from making a new emergency with the same substance.

HB103 provides a requirement that the office review an emergency rule to determine whether it has an adverse impact on businesses and allows the office to make recommendations to eliminate this impact. This provision might be the most important based on the recent history of the health emergency and its unjust damage to small businesses. These very real impacts have been totally ignored by the governor.

As a data person myself, the evidence seems to support the idea that lockdowns/masks/closures/cancellations have not made any difference in saving lives, but they have made a significant difference in causing chaos, suffering, and death. This kind of tyrannical overreach must never be allowed to happen again.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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