

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. SB22, and while important to Ohioans, unfortunately left some egregious loopholes that an overreaching executive branch might choose to exploit. In fact, based on recent experience, I would go so far as to say would definitely choose to exploit. 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) 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! It prevents "double jeopardy", if you will.

Finally, 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 impacts are not measured or accounted for when the governor talks about the health emergency, but the damage is real and needs to be included in any assessment.

I have watched many friends and family members suffer and struggle to provide for their families as their businesses have been crippled and annihilated by emergency orders. One such friend was also a healthcare provider of mine. Not only will his business never be the same, but because the emergency orders prevented me from receiving regular care at his practice, I spent three months in constant, excruciating, 10 out of 10 pain day and night. Nothing could even put a dent in it. It was so bad that at times I did not want to go on living because I wasn't sure the pain would ever end. My healthcare costs also increased due to what, up to that point, was addressed by the less costly ounce of prevention. There are so many stories out there like this. We cannot allow the cure to be worse than the disease. We need to take measures to ensure that nothing like this ever, EVER happens again.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Justin Beard