



GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT
AND REFORM
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 2/1/2021

Name: Jeanine Mardis

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Telephone: (419) 706-6521

Organization Representing: N/A

Testifying on Bill Number: SB22

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: I urge you to vote "yes" on SB22. Written testimony is attached to this document. I will also be giving this as verbal testimony on 2/3/2021.

Testimony of Jeanine Mardis
Support SB22
Government and Oversight Committee
February 3, 2021

Madam Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and honorable members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to give testimony in support of Senate Bill 22. My name is Jeanine Mardis, and I am representing myself as a concerned mother and citizen of Ohio.

My small tourist city of Sandusky lost its only dedicated gluten free bakeshop last year. This is a direct result of Governor DeWine's overreaching orders issued over the past year. My son and I are both on a gluten free diet, and now we no longer get to enjoy gluten free pizza, cheesy bread with the best freshly made marinara sauce I've ever tasted, swiss cake rolls, pecan pie, apple fritters, etc. We knew our chef by name and could taste the care he put into everything he made, ensuring that every gluten free treat was not only indistinguishable from its wheat-based counterpart - it was much better.

Even those who aren't particularly observant can see who the winners and losers have been this past year. Walmart, Costco, Amazon - they were and still are in a great position to weather the never-ending "emergency" while small businesses have been left to bear the brunt of the ongoing economic burden with little to no financial assistance. The result, whether intentional or unintentional, has been the destruction of independent livelihoods and the increased dependence on large corporations and government.

In February of 2020, my very affectionate and regal 15-year-old feline companion, Fuzzy, was diagnosed with cancer in his mouth and jaw. The surgical operation removed most of the tumor, but a portion remained in his jaw, and I was referred to an animal oncologist group for further treatment. I was in contact with multiple veterinarians seeking many different treatment options when DeWine issued the stay-at-home order in March. Consequently, Fuzzy was denied further treatment, and his condition quickly worsened. The surgical wound burst through his skin on the outside of his face. As blood, pus, and mucous oozed out, I did my best to keep his face clean.

With the pain medication I had on hand, I kept him as comfortable as I could as I waited for his wound to heal and to be able to resume treatment. His wound never healed. As the tumor in his jaw encroached on his sinus cavity, Fuzzy shook his head with increasing frequency in an effort to seek relief. His sneezing fits resulted in the walls and floors of our home being sprayed with blood, pus, mucous, and bits of skin. Fuzzy's once beautiful long fur became matted and caked with the constant stream of body fluids, because he was no

longer able to groom himself properly. His fur was shaved in several places to remove the matts, making it more difficult for him to keep warm. Despite all this, his strong spirit and his body somehow endured as the weeks went by.

As DeWine's COVID response dragged on, it became apparent that no one was going to help Fuzzy. In May, our house reeking of cancer and my heart breaking into more and more pieces, Fuzzy went blind. I made the difficult decision to end his suffering.

My 10-year-old son gruesomely lost a lifelong companion, a constant reassuring present in his life. He got to see for himself one of the consequences of mass hysteria: those who have any ailment other than COVID are forgotten and their neglect is justified as being for "the greater good".

Governor DeWine should not be able to use a section of Ohio law introduced in 1909 in response to a Tuberculosis outbreak before most people even had access to indoor plumbing and proper sanitation, to issue executive orders that have been more economically and socially destructive than COVID ever could have been if there'd been a more reasonable response with input from our legislature.

As Senator Mark Romanchuk recently stated in response to a concerned citizen much like myself, "All I want to do is insert the legislature in the decision-making process, because if I lose my voice, you've lost your voice."

I agree with Senator Mark Romanchuk, and I'm here today, because I'm taking my voice back. I ask you to please vote yes on Senate Bill 22. Thank you.