

Before  
The Ohio Senate  
Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Interested Party Written Testimony on Senate Bill 22

By Melissa Ackison

On Behalf of Patriots for Ohio

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Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 22. On behalf of Patriots for Ohio, and our members, I would like to submit written testimony on the benefits and shortcomings of the bill.

Patriots for Ohio is dedicated to ensuring Ohioans have a voice in the decisions that impact them most, and ensure the government is operating in the best interest of its citizens. The business closures, lockdowns, and mandates forced millions of Ohioans into financial distress, ostracized individuals who were unable or unwilling to wear a mask, and isolated Ohio's most vulnerable. These same mandates contributed to record homicides, suicides, and overdoses across Ohio.

Simply put, unilateral decision making by one branch of government, absent of checks, leads to unvetted plans of action. Despite cries from numerous legislators and their constituents, edicts were handed down onto Ohioans without discourse. With the heavy hand of government coming down on every Ohioan, a seat at the table is the least Ohioans could have been offered.

There are certainly measures within the bill that balance out the power between branches of government, but there are also substantive questions of Constitutionality and a limited forum for Ohioans to directly voice their concerns. With limited input from the very people most impacted by these mandates, this bill would greatly benefit from clearly spelled-out language which gives Ohioans the opportunity to be heard. Patriots for Ohio certainly supports the spirit of the bill, but believes the legislation requires further development and input from Ohioans.

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 22.