

I am testifying today in favor of SB22 as an Ohio resident concerned about the current emergency authority of the Governor.

The current imbalance of power with the Executive Branch having total authority with all aspects of public health emergencies without time constraints creates a significant risk to our State. Particularly when decisions are made for the entire state based on higher populated areas that skew a State perspective, leaving over half the state without consideration.

We understand the need for the Governor to enact a public emergency in a state of crisis. We all know our perspective changes once we step back and consider the situation. During a crisis, that time may be not available, hence, we need the Governor to make swift and decisive actions. However, that authority should be limited while additional information and options are available to include a broad range of legislators. Thereafter policy can be developed or modified and implemented based on informed decisions. Proverbs 18:17 states "The person who tells one side of a story seems right, until someone else comes and asks questions."

This bill restores the balance of power to where it should be, between the three, COEQUAL branches of government, and gives a voice to the people of Ohio via their legislators during a declared emergency. Our state cannot thrive under the isolated actions of one individual. Please vote YES on SB22!

Most sincere and respectfully,

Laura Haimes