

1437 Niagara Court  
Maineville, OH 45039

February 2, 2021

RE: Testimony Urging a YES Vote on SB 22

Chairman Roegner, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Government Oversight & Reform Committee:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 22. This legislation restores the appropriate role of the legislature when state-wide emergencies arise.

For the past 11 months, a declaration of emergency has proved sufficient grounds to suspend legal rights and due process for all Ohioans. Many have been forced out of work or lost their small business. The individual rights which were compromised by these orders are far too important to have been left to bureaucrats in a state agency. These orders had the effect of bypassing the legislature to rewrite established law. Ohio's court system was bypassed to enforce these orders, with state licensing agencies acting as judge and jury for "offenders."

Restoration of Ohio's constitutional balance of power is in everyone's best interest. This is not a partisan issue. Support for SB 22 need not depend upon whether one approves or disapproves of Ohio's response to Covid-19. We need SB 22 to protect all citizens against concentration of power in the hands of the executive, in the current Covid response and in future emergencies.

Donald R Brown, Ph.D.