

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

As the Executive Director of Free Ohio Now, a state-wide grassroots organization, I am testifying today in favor of Senate Bill 22 . The actions currently being taken under the existing emergency powers law and the dire effects they are having on all of us has caused me and the members of the organization I represent to be deeply concerned.

A constitutional republic such as ours can successfully represent the best interests of the people only when the co-equal, separate branches of government jealously defend their constitutionally derived powers, rights and responsibilities.

Today, Ohio's Governor exercises unbridled emergency powers which threaten the very notion of what it means to have a constitutional republic. Senate Bill 22, when passed into law, will re-balance the powers between the branches of government during a declared emergency, and will restore the people's voice in the process through their elected representatives.

No matter what positions we are in today, all of us are temporary. Given the temporary nature of life, all of us have a duty to future generations to leave the world in a better place than when we inherited it. Right now the well-being of our communities, the viability of our economy and the future of our children are on the line. Our state cannot thrive under the continued unchecked and unilateral orders of our Governor.

Please vote YES on Senate Bill 22, and stand up for our future and our constitutionally guaranteed rights, liberties and freedoms!

Thank you,

Thomas Hach  
Executive Director  
Free Ohio Now

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