

SB22 Opposition Testimony

Thank you Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Minority Member Craig, and distinguished members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee for allowing me to speak today. My name is Tracy Ann, I am a veteran, a wife and a mother.

I attended the proponent testimony hearing last week. The testimonies were profound and some brought tears to my eyes and an additional ache to my heart. As I can relate to many of those witnesses.

I have been unemployed since March. It took me three months to get my unemployment. I was called back to work unfortunately it only lasted for two weeks. I was unemployed once again due to mandate requirements. I have had no income since October because unemployment continues to be a disastrous mess. As long as the mandates are in place I am not allowed to work.

I am unable to shop for goods and services for myself and family in person at some retail establishments. This has caused an increase of spending for goods and services. When I do shop in person my experience has been less than friendly. I have to justify why I am unable to wear a mask. I encounter people that yell at me. One woman went as far as sticking her finger in my face as she yelled at me. Kind of strange since I am seen as a high risk vector of disease.

Last week Senator Thomas sat through nearly an hour of testimony on two other bills. He asked numerous questions to which he was reminded to stick to the point due to a time constraint. During that elapsed time my non masked face along with a room full of others were present. However, those unmasked faces were not a concern for him or the health of his immunocompromised grandchild until SB22 testimony was given. The theatrics displayed were profound and effective. I had an immunocompromised child. I certainly would not have risked their health

and life by spending nearly an hour in a room full of potential risk. Those theatrics prove how much we are not in this together!!!

I know numerous young adults that are not doing well mentally due to mandates. They are not in an at risk category. However, they refuse to leave their homes, socialize outside of zoom and live in a tremendous amount of fear. The unbalanced and unchecked fear campaign has and continues to have mental and physical health consequences far greater than covid19.

I have a female cancer risk that I get screened for every two years. However, I am now six months past screening due to Governor Dewine's and Ohio Health Director's Mandate. I have no idea when I will be allowed to have my screening because I am unable to wear a mask or shield. My health and life are being placed at risk as a part of the cure. Does my health and my life not matter because it doesn't include covid19?!?!

In 2020 my husband and I have donated more money for funeral funds than we have in our entire twenty eight years together. Suicides are NOT covered by life and burial insurance. In a nine day period we knew of SIX families that have had their lives forever changed. The ripple affect of suicide is exponential and often not discussed. Do these deaths, emotional trauma and empty chairs not matter because they are not Covid19 deaths? The cure must not be worse than the disease.

While SB22 is not a perfect bill, it is better than the dictatorship we are currently subjected to. Last week I was a proponent and submitted a written statement supporting SB22. However, today after another week of living under mandates, my friends and loved ones continuous mental suffering and one more week of no work and no unemployment I am no longer in support of SB22 and my testimony is in opposition. I oppose SB22 because it does not contain an EMERGENCY clause. This bill is futile and a mirage of hope at best as it is written today without an emergency clause. Best case situation SB22 is signed into law in August and wouldn't go into effect

until November! This means close to two years of an Ohio dictatorship and completely ignoring and disrespecting the Ohio branches of government that are in place to provide a checks and balance for our state and our citizens. The cure is never intended to be worse than the disease. However, that is where we are today! Again, I do not support SB22 as written without an emergency clause.

I will do my best to answer any questions and I share why I do not wear a mask.