

Azure Stephens, Proponent  
S.B. 311 - State and Local Government Committee  
11/18/20

#### Testimony

Chairman Representative Scott Wiggam, Vice Chair Representative Jason Stephens, Ranking Member Brigid Kelly, and honorable members of the committee. I write to you today in support of Senate Bill 311.

I'm am 22 years old. I just graduated from college and put my plans on hold and moved home to Columbus because of the unsureness surrounding the pandemic. Throughout these last 8 months, I have become more and more on edge. Sometimes I feel so hopeless. The constant barrage of fear from the media and the culture of judgment and shame that has arisen has made it difficult to think about this situation objectively. However, I persist and constantly try to stay educated. Imposing a quarantine or isolation on an entire state of mostly healthy people does not make sense to me. Giving ultimate power to the Director of Health does not make sense to me.

I believe in true health and I don't believe that can be achieved when a person is isolated, restricted from seeing the people they love, restricted from doing their ordinary activities, and sometimes even restricted from freely walking outside. I don't believe that this one issue surrounding health, Covid-19, usurps every other aspect of what it means to be healthy. I urge you to support S.B. 311 so the people of Ohio have the right to move freely and take charge of their health.

Thank you for all you do and for hearing my voice.

Azure