

Chairman Wiggam & Ohio House State and Local Government Committee
Members,

As the president of Hospitality Restaurants, an independent owner of nine award-winning restaurants in Northeast Ohio, I am writing to support passage of Ohio Substitute Senate Bill 311.

Our organization employed 367 full and part time staff on March 15, 2020. On Monday, March 16, all employees filed for unemployment as a result of actions directed by an unelected official who reacted to projections that proved to be grossly exaggerated and wildly inaccurate. These directives adversely affected the lives of all Ohioans with absolutely no checks and balances – the decision was based purely on speculation. The original stated goal was to “flatten the curve” and to eliminate collapse of the health care system. It can be argued that those concerns were never in jeopardy. The Director actually stated at one point that more than 90,000 people per day would be infected in Ohio.

Our organization has successfully operated our businesses for 29 years. The adverse effects of the directives that were taken are innumerable; both in the potential of financial ruin of a successful company and the severe emotional toll it has taken on our trusted employees. Recovery from these will take many years.

Covid-19 is obviously very real and steps needed to be implemented – that has never been in question. What remains in question is how one unelected individual was vested with unfettered power over millions of people’s lives, livelihoods and individual freedoms with no regulation. Please pass Ohio Substitute Senate Bill 311 and assure Ohioans that this unbridled power can never again be allowed to be recklessly granted to one person.

Respectfully submitted,

George A. Schindler

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“Ancora Imparo”

Michelangelo, age 87