

Hello,

I am a 4th year medical student at OSU and constituent from Columbus, and I am writing today to urge you to vote down SB311, which would make it illegal to mandate common sense public health measures such as stay at home orders or mask requirements. I have seen COVID spread in the hospital and the community, and the death and permanent disability it leaves in its wake. I've seen the physical and mental toll its taken on my mentors and colleagues these last 9 months. We need the ability to come together as a community and address this threat.

We should prioritize the right to life by toughing it out until the vaccine is ready, rather than handicap my colleagues in public health and medicine by playing dice with all of our lives. The economy will not return to full strength until this virus is defeated, and SB311 would result in more needless human cataclysm and death, on top of what is already inevitable. I understand the concern about trampling on cherished American freedoms, but protecting public health is not tyranny, and sometimes sacrifice must be shared to defeat a common enemy. We have gone without material comforts and the company of friends and family before in times of war, and now we must do it again. These public health orders will not last forever, and they are a high but worthy price to avoid an escalation of the horror show running in the OSU ICUs. I urge you to vote no on SB311, else we will trade a long winter indoors for years of grief.

Thank you,

John Bacon