

Dear Representative,

I am writing today to encourage you to vote YES on SB 311. It has become clear that the Governor and the Health Director have yielded far too much power during this COVID crisis and their continuing actions are a threat to our democracy. Over the past 8 months the citizens of Ohio have sacrificed far too much with the promise that restrictions and mandates will be lifted if they just hunker down and do their part. Today is currently day 240 of "15 days to slow the spread" and week 17 after we were told "4-6 weeks of wearing masks and it will drive COVID into the ground." Are we truly to believe that the Governor will rescind this latest curfew after the 21 day period ends? It is clear now that there is no end in sight for these tyrannical restrictions and it's time for our other elected officials to get involved.

Respectfully, our government works FOR "We the People" and we deserve and demand transparency from our representatives and others in positions of authority. For 8 months the legislature has been absent from this conversation and these major decisions affecting millions of Ohioans have been made by a handful of people at the top. Please fight for your constituents and vote YES to limiting their emergency powers.

In addition, there are serious concerns about the accuracy of the data being used to issue these mandates and guidelines. Why after 8 months do we not have more detailed reporting policies? Why are there so many discrepancies in the data provided by the state of Ohio on the dashboard? Reviewing this data shows there are numerous instances of COVID hospitalizations occurring months BEFORE date of onset and conversely date of onset occurring 6+ months BEFORE date of hospitalization or death. We've heard reports of duplicate positive tests, faulty test kits producing a high rate of false positives and questionable reporting of deaths WITH COVID rather than FROM COVID. Many of these cases being reported as "new" are in fact from MONTHS ago, as far back as January. Why are we using inactive "cases" to justify these current actions? It is completely unacceptable to mandate drastic lockdowns and restrictions based on faulty or potentially fraudulent data.

It is imperative that the legislature hears from the constituents who are affected by these shutdowns. I have successfully worked in the event industry for 12 years and through no fault of my own overnight everything changed and our industry is now struggling to stay afloat. I was laid off for 4 months and with these latest restrictions on our industry, it's likely I could be out of work again for the foreseeable future. With so much uncertainty it's no wonder our clients are canceling events completely rather than postponing. This plan of continual shutdowns is NOT sustainable and the science increasingly does not support it - we are seeing all across the world a rise in poverty and a range of mental and physical health issues as a result.

I urge you to fight for our liberty and restore our personal responsibility to care for our own health by ending these shutdowns now, restricting the power of the Governor and Health Director and demanding transparency in the data.

Sincerely,
Karen Montgomery
Concerned Ohio Resident