

Dear Chairman Wiggam and Members of the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee,

The current policies that have been implemented have severely injured our business of providing positive sports options for the youth basketball and volleyball players of Ohio. The level of disruption this has caused families and children has been unparalleled. As a state we need a steady and consistent plan that will allow businesses and families alike to plan. I understand the gravity of what we have all had to endure, but common sense and logic has to be the guiding force, not fear of the unknown.

I fully support SB311. Our country's governmental structure only works with checks and balances. For any unelected official or singular branch of government to have the authority to issue multiple mandates without any oversight is unconstitutional and not in the best interests of the people of the State of Ohio. Our elected officials must be involved at every level to help guide decisions that affect all Ohioans. SB311 is necessary for our brand of representative government to flourish and not be subjugated by tyrannical rule. The far overreach that we have all had to witness and live with can never happen in Ohio again.

Every Ohioan needs the assurance that we will never let this happen in Ohio again. I work with tens of thousands of Ohio kids every year in the sports of basketball and volleyball. We had to travel out of state all summer due to the draconian rules of a few that affected the lives of millions of Ohioans. The rules/mandates implemented were not based on science or data, they were instead rooted in guesswork and fear. I had several families cry in my living room thanking me for allowing their children to have the most normal summer possible. They were fearful of their children's mental health as their lives were ripped from them and they were thrown into a world of the unknown.

As part of the Governor DeWine's Task Force on the Responsible Restart of Sports in Ohio I was appalled by the lack of compassion and understanding by our own Ohio Department of Health. We asked the same question many times, what is the criteria to "graduate" to the next level. We were never given an answer. The answer was always, "We do not know, there are many factors involved." In one conversation when the question was asked, there was silence as the ODH member on the call hung up rather than answer the question posed. The feeling from the group was that we were watching the plane be assembled while being flown. If Ohioans understood how their lives were being adversely affected and decisions were being made by a select few that were simply guessing at outcomes, the populace would have been appalled. Our legislators must be involved to make sure checks and balances are restored at every level. SB 311 is important for our state.

Sincerely,

Tucker Neale

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