



**Ohio House Government Oversight Committee**  
**Chairman Wilkin, Vice-Chair White, and Ranking Member Sweeney**  
**Testimony of Tracy Sabetta, representing Moms Clean Air Force in Ohio**  
**Proponent Testimony on House Bill 55**  
March 25, 2021

Chairman Wilkin, Vice-Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee. My name is Tracy Sabetta, and I represent Moms Clean Air Force in Ohio. Today, Moms Clean Air Force is offering proponent testimony in support of House Bill 55.

In January 2021, Moms Clean Air Force in Ohio joined with more than 75 other organizations across the state in signing a letter of support calling for all legislative hearings to permit virtual testimony and for a Statehouse mask mandate. As mothers, we believe that reducing risk during this state of emergency is essential to keeping democracy safe and accessible to all Ohioans. That is why we are submitting testimony in support of House Bill 55.

We are grateful that the General Assembly is now live streaming all hearings to allow Ohioans to watch the debate on critical pieces of legislation. The next step is to allow us to testify virtually so that no matter where we are from or whether we are caring for children or elderly parents at home, we can participate in the democratic process.

Our democracy works best when all of us are involved and we have equitable access to share our voices. With an ongoing public health crisis, participating in legislative proceedings in person at the Ohio Statehouse is not a safe option for our families. We wish our leaders would take heed of science and public health recommendations and voluntarily wear masks while doing the work of the people. However, that is not currently happening. We have seen the results of this choice with lawmakers falling ill, some needing hospitalized. You have essentially built barriers around the Statehouse to keep vulnerable Ohioans out.

It is imperative for legislative leadership to keep our democracy open and offer us a safe option for participation. House Bill 55 would offer us that option. Thank you so much for the opportunity to submit written testimony today, and I am hopeful that there will soon be a safe alternative for me to speak to you virtually. My family and the more than 80,000 members of Moms Clean Air Force in Ohio urge you to support House Bill 55.