

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairwoman John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee:

I am testifying as a proponent of HB90, because the current situation in Ohio has proven how outdated and flawed our state's current emergency powers laws are. There is currently zero oversight and respect for the separation of powers happening in Ohio. Any trust that was in our state government has been eroded. Additionally, society has been damaged in many ways because of this.

The fact that the Governor and unelected Ohio Department of Health (ODH) can declare an emergency and then rule by mandate flies in the face of our Constitutional Republic. There is no reason to have an emergency continue for 11 months straight. There is also no reason for the General Assembly to be left out of the decision making, or for the Assembly to fail to take back its role for the people of this state. By letting the Governor and a cabinet department run the state unilaterally, we have witnessed the suspension of the people's rights and liberties. This is unacceptable. We see a Governor continue to fear monger and keep people subservient to him. Why are Ohioans expected to continue with rigorous mitigation efforts, especially after a vaccine has become available? It is time to end this sick game being played by our Governor.

Our Governor has narcissistically chuckled and smirked in front of the cameras while telling us what to do. It's clear he knows he's getting away with such abuses of power. We have seen people become second class citizens because they choose to not wear a mask, they cannot wear a mask, or they simply demand their lives back, among other reasons. This is horrible.

We have seen the apathetic dismissal of a growing crisis involving financial troubles for people and businesses, as well as a growing mental health crisis. I have friends who have depression. This has been very hard on them. For one of them, it's been horribly difficult on their mental health. I feel pain knowing their pain is unbearable. These measures are not worth the damage being caused. Burning down the village to save it is a horrible, nonsensical choice. The cure cannot be worse than the disease. Yet, here we are. We see politicians and special interest and government funded experts push these measures, simply to "be right," and it's all at the expense of others. "We must make sacrifices," they say. I counter that sentiment; we are being sacrificed on the altar of medical authoritarianism. We cannot live a life with zero risk. Zero risk is what these experts want. They have had their time to talk and their time to pull all of the strings. It's time to give the voice back to the people, and to give power back to the people.

While not perfect, and more work needs to be done, more legislation is needed for reform, this bill is a necessary step towards restoring Ohio and its society. We need our General Assembly to reassert itself, take its place as a COEQUAL branch of government back, and right the ship that has been crashed into an iceberg by our Governor.

I demand this bill be passed. It is needed. It is time to stop ignoring the people. We have had enough. I have had enough.

The balance of power issues, rights and liberties issues, and proper function of government issues should be enough alone to get this bill passed. It is not partisan. It does not matter which party you belong to. The choice is simple: VOTE YES ON HB90.

There is no more time to waste. We cannot continue this decline toward totalitarianism that is masked with the false image of public health, safety, or the common good. What we are currently experiencing is none of those things; it's just simple totalitarianism. Our governor must be one who governs, not a dictator who rules.

Again, VOTE YES ON HB90.

Thank you,

Bryan Amatangelo