

Testimony

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the State and Local Government committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today.

My name is Deborah Gertz and I am a resident of Silver Lake, Ohio. I am submitting this testimony today to express my strong opposition to HB 90 which would allow the legislature to rescind or limit health orders and directives that the Governor of Ohio has made.

Health orders are made based on the facts, data, and science that has been determined by the Ohio Health Department, with support from our Governor. Changing the decisions to a legislature that does not have the experience or knowledge about proper health orders for a state or county does will not keep me and my family safe.

The health of Ohio citizens should not be made based on politics, but facts. Putting 30 day limitations on orders without having the proper facts does not make sense, and does not protect citizens of Ohio. The state of Ohio has been in a better situation than some states due to the knowledge and scientific facts that our Governor has made with support from the Ohio Health Department. The current pandemic has shown that even though there has been many sacrifices by many, you can see that the orders, and health orders showed less chaos and deaths than in other states.

I have been very shocked to see that more states will not put a mask mandate like Ohio did which would have saved so many lives. Unfortunately, the decisions were political, not scientific, and showed me that those states did not have a Governor or health department who cares enough about medical facts to protect their citizens. I will not have the confidence that the legislature will make decisions in the best interest of the people of Ohio, but will be political and that is playing with our lives.

Only facts and science should the health of Ohio citizens be based on, and not for political reasons and the influence of outside money. For these reasons, I urge you to vote no on HB 90.