

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairman John, Ranking member Kelly and esteemed members of the State and Local Government committee:

I am Dr. Elizabeth Laffay, I am a practicing physician in both Lorain and Erie counties, I see patients in the ER and outpatient setting and have been actively working with patients all throughout this pandemic.

There are a lot of us doctors out here who are censored and slandered immediately upon speaking up about anything that is against the narrative of this state. Those whose voices are muted most quickly have nothing to gain by coming forward other than the ability to sleep at night. These are the statements you should pay attention to. In essence, I am asking you to pay attention to what I have to say because I am incorruptible. I don't want money. I don't want power. I have zero political aspirations. And for being here today I risk unfair treatment by the press and loss of income.

The last time I came before you as a committee I stated that we were often told things as fact these days without any science or data to back it up. I have listened to this happen again multiple times since I have been here, both on the governor's press conferences with Dr. Vanderhoff and also in testimony given to you by Dr. Andy Thomas. They have spoken about the thousands of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths that would have occurred had we not taken extreme measures to prevent them; yet turning away from bad models and looking at real world situations this just isn't true. States and countries with less extreme measures than us did better even in some instances. They keep referring to "the power of the mask" and yet if you step back and look at that statement compared to real life, it is absurd. The beautiful predictable course of the bell curve of viral infections that happened in fall 2020 occurred while we were masked and made sure to be compliant: and although it cured us of testing for the flu, it did little to stop anything else. I did agree with Dr. Thomas that when this oversight committee is formed it needs to contain some other experts in the field, though I would think it imperative to have some who have nothing to gain by keeping us in a state of emergency.

When I ask you to vote yourselves back into the decision-making process, I want you to understand why. No one is holding the architects of this management accountable right now.

We have graciously been given a goal finally for when all of these mandates can end: 50/100,000 cases as a state. We have moved away from individual county assessment, ICU usage or hospitalizations to *cases*--a very manipulatable goal. I want to give you my diagnosis for why it is IMPOSSIBLE to get to 50/100,000. There are three key factors:

- 1) Opposite of what is advertised, we don't follow the CDC guidelines but in actuality use an extreme variation of the CDC guidelines to define what constitutes a case. A case in OH can be "probable" which can be as simple as a cough without any testing done. These account for 30-40% of our daily cases.

2) PCR testing carries a false positivity rate with it that at very best is 1%. If you were to test 100 people, 1 out of every 100 would test positive. If you need more positives, you can do more tests. Testing just increased on OSU campus from once weekly to twice weekly (for prizes!); we also test every elective surgery, hospital admission, and nursing home worker. If wanting to increase this number, one could simply add a free pop-up test site. Currently, per Dr. Vanderhoff we do 50,000 tests daily, that's **500 cases** in false positives alone. Never before in history have we done testing on asymptomatic people. It makes no sense. Applying this type of testing to a person without symptoms not only goes against the very package insert but is akin to doing a pregnancy test on a man and getting positive results.

3) Again, parting from the CDC, where cases per 100,000 are done on a 7 day average, we collect these numbers over 14 days: in effect we potentially double them.

As it stands between this 2 week average, probable cases being included and the number of false positives created by the rate of testing done, we will NEVER get below 50/100,000. As probable cases and number of tests given are both things that can be significantly manipulated, this will be at the whim of those in charge. It is as though we have finally been given an end zone, but the field goes on to infinity. We are already at 50/100,000, yet we will never get there.

Why are we trying to stop this virus? What happened to just trying to protect our hospital systems? Why are we not allowed to walk about with our freedoms? Why are we being subjected to a constant fear message and vaccine propaganda? Why can't we have some discussion at this point with some non-hand-picked "experts"? Why am I here asking you to vote for a job that is already yours?

Please vote to rebalance the power of our government. Please vote to give us ALL a voice. Please vote yes on SB22.