

Bryan Amatangelo
1605 Lancaster Gate SE
North Canton, OH 44709
(330)575-9744
bamatangelo.1128@gmail.com

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee:

Today, I am testifying as a proponent of Senate Bill 22 (SB22). As a resident of Ohio, I am very concerned about the current courses of action being taken by the Governor and Ohio Department of Health (ODH), as well as the negative effects on everyone.

This bill addresses these issues. SB22 restores the proper balance of power between our three COEQUAL branches of government, and it gives the PEOPLE of Ohio a VOICE through their elected REPRESENTATIVES and SENATORS.

Right now, the future of the State of Ohio is on the line: our businesses, our economy, our future livelihoods, our freedoms and liberties, our social and mental/emotional well-being - especially of the children.

Ohio cannot continue under an indefinite state of emergency. We cannot continue being dictated to by one elected official, our governor, and/or unelected bureaucrats in the Ohio Department of Health. This flies in the face of our republican (small "R") form of government and America itself. Our businesses cannot continue to be strong-armed into compliance with mafia-style coercion. We must not permit the Governor or ODH to weaponize the Bureau of Workers' Compensation or health departments against businesses, especially small, privately owned businesses and restaurants. Ohio's citizens and businesses must be allowed to live and operate freely without these mandates, so that we can all make individual choices to get back to normalcy, and decide what is best for ourselves, our families, and our businesses. As an employee of a business, it feels like a hostile work environment having to enforce a mask mandate on customers to avoid having the business penalized by the State. This hostile work environment was created by the Governor's and ODH's unending powers, mandates, and oppressive response to COVID-19. For the sake of preserving liberty, we must prevent further erosion of it and protect it, as it makes life worth living. Therefore, this bill must pass.

I am worried that the powers the Governor and ODH currently possess has interfered with rational thought and has led to an oppressive fog of fear that has impaired society. People and businesses are suffering, and many have missed out on so much time with friends and family. This is time we cannot get back. I have missed out on precious time and, what could have been, wonderful memories with my family and friends. For the sake of preserving the way of life and livelihoods that make life worth living, this bill must pass.

In my honest opinion, the disregard for Ohioans and its businesses, as well as the exclusion of the General Assembly, by the Governor has been reprehensible. We have been subjected to guilt and shaming instead of proper education and advisement. Further, I am afraid of the irrevocable damage that will be done to Ohio's government, and to society, if we continue down the road of indefinite emergency declarations, unchecked and unending emergency powers, and general life in a state of fear.

It is time to end this oppressiveness, restore checks and balances to Ohio government, and restore the individual choice to people, families, businesses, and communities in responding to emergencies. Our state cannot thrive under the continued oppressive and unopposed orders of our over-reaching Governor.

While the argument can be proposed that these orders, and the emergency declaration itself, are in the best of intentions, I offer a counter-argument: The road to hell is paved with good intentions.

Friedrich August von Hayek said, "Emergencies have always been the pretext on which the safeguards of individual liberty have been eroded – and once they are suspended it is not difficult for anyone who has assumed such emergency powers to see to it that the emergency will persist."

Please stand up and protect our personal liberties and the future of our state by voting YES on SB22!

Thank you,

Bryan Amatangelo