

Dear,

Chairman Roegner, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the State and Local Government Committee:

I am writing to testify in favor of SB22 as an Ohio resident and parent gravely concerned about courses of action being taken under the current emergency powers. This “emergency” that has been going on for almost a year now is having catastrophic effects on the people of Ohio. We are holding on by a thread- emotionally, psychologically and financially.

My family is “better off than most” and is still at the brink. Deaths of despair-suicide, drug abuse, domestic violence, discrimination, verbal and physical assaults over all the various orders and mandates (masks, occupancy restrictions, school and sports rules) are now outpacing any deaths from COVID-19. Businesses, retail, restaurants, sports facilities, etc. are being forced to implement rules and causing discrimination and abuse that 1 year ago or more would never be tolerated under Civil Rights Acts. These issues are occurring because of the fear one person is spewing to Ohio citizens. The Ohio Department of Health's own numbers demonstrate that yes people are getting sick with a virus but more than 99% get better with some or no intervention whatsoever! The government's job is to protect my rights, liberties and freedoms not intervene on daily life and health decisions.

This bill restores the balance of power to where it should be, between the three CO-EQUAL branches of government. We need transparency and debate to determine appropriate actions. What started out as 2 weeks to flatten the curve has turned into approaching a year of despair caused by one unchecked individual under the cover of an Emergency that he almost exclusively is responsible for.

Small businesses, our economy, our social and emotional well-being and the future of our children are on the line. Our state is not thriving, in fact it is hardly even surviving under the continued oppressive draconian one size fits all orders of our overreaching Governor.

Please stand up for THE PEOPLE OF OHIO and protect our liberties, the future of our state and the future of our children by voting YES on SB22!

Thank you,

Larissa Blais