

1437 Niagara Court
Maineville, OH 45039

February 2, 2021

RE: Testimony Urging a YES Vote on SB 22

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

I am testifying today in favor of SB22 as an Ohio resident deeply concerned about courses of action being taken under the current emergency powers. Since this health emergency began last March, I and my husband have suffered continued alarm and heartbreak to see how easily our rights, freedoms, and equal application of the law to everyone, guaranteed by the US and the Ohio Constitutions, can be abrogated or taken away simply by the Governor's declaring an emergency.

With dismay and sadness we have watched children's education needlessly interrupted, watched hospitals for weeks be prevented from giving life-saving care for conditions other than Covid, watched small businesses, the lifeblood of Ohioans, struggle and close, watched people bullied and shamed merely because they wish to be with their family on holidays or visit them in a nursing home.

This situation is not only not right for the present situation; it is a horror waiting to happen the next time a new contagious disease hits the borders of Ohio. Please act now to keep this from happening again.

An epidemic can be safely and effectively addressed without the dangers and possible mistakes that can be made when one person rules by fiat. SB 22 spells out exactly how we should do that in Ohio.

SB 22 restores the balance of power as conceived and enshrined in Ohio and US law. Laws and mandates such as those issued throughout 2020 and 2021, with such far-reaching consequences on the lives of all Ohioans, should not be made or enforced for more than a few days unless the legislature has input. Considered debate by the Legislature, the duly elected representatives of the people, will give the people a voice in what happens to them, and add necessary advice and oversight so that good decisions are made. SB 22 will ensure that will happen.

So much do I believe that our businesses, our economy, our social and emotional well-being, and the future of our children is on the line, I would consider moving out of Ohio if this wrongful situation is not corrected and, worse, permitted to happen again. My children and grandchildren are here, and we have long roots in Ohio, a great state. I want to stay; but I want to stay in a state where the rights of all are protected and their total well-being is thoroughly considered. SB 22 will help that happen.

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

With thanks and great hope this issue will be addressed,

Mary Jane Brown