

Dan Continenza, DC
Proponent Testimony for SB 22
Government Oversight and Reform Committee
February 2, 2021

Madam Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and Honorable Members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee,

Governor DeWine's unilateral decision making over this past year has resulted in an incredible amount of stress, struggle and suffering for my own family, my own business and countless other families with whom I am personally connected. I am incredibly hopeful that there will be a restoration of checks and balances within the decision-making processes of the Ohio government. While I understand that the purpose of this bill is not to simply reverse all of the orders and mandates that the Governor put in place this past year, I do believe that all government actions which impact the lives of individuals should be made through proper discussion and debate. It is the duty of the elected leaders of the state of Ohio to keep each other accountable while making decision on behalf of the constituency they represent, and with the overall wellbeing of that constituency in mind.

I am a practicing chiropractor in private practice. As a healthcare provider, I can tell you with certainty that the restrictive measures put in place by the Governor have negatively impacted the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of countless families. I have watched people in my own practice, as well as many other forms of both alternative and conventional care, experience such great pressure that they discontinued the receipt of services that allowed them to experience a respectable quality of life. Some were restricted from receiving help because their preferred avenue of healthcare was cut off for part of the year, having been deemed "non-essential." Others had quit receiving out-of-pocket services because they lost their jobs, had to close their businesses or were otherwise placed under greater financial stress. Perhaps the greatest stress was felt by many children who I've seen struggling with depression and academic decline due to school restrictions, isolation and forced e-learning.

As a small business owner, alongside my wife, we have face immense economic distress through the various stages of lockdown restriction. My wife, who practices a specialized form of therapeutic touch, was deemed "non-essential" early last year which took her out of the essential role of helping our business survive. As stated above, it also temporarily removed her from the lives of her clients, who she helps to stay physically, mentally and emotionally well during tumultuous times. In addition to those clients, I referenced above who were unable to continue care at our office for financial reasons, we also lost a considerable number of clients, actual and prospective, who were too afraid to come out of their own homes in response to DeWine's incessant fearmongering, both during his press conferences and on his Twitter account. We have also been restricted in our ability to take on new clients due to the heavy restrictions put in place for healthcare offices in order to be allowed to see patients, at all.

Finally, my own Grandmother began a rapid decline in mental health when she began being isolated in her room, unable to see visitors at all for months, then only with great restriction later. This decline bottomed out when she passed, in a state where she was almost completely unable to recognize her own family. Her brother-in-law, my great uncle, also passes at the end of last year, as a result of the stress of isolation. Though he was in and out of the hospital on a few occasions last year, it was not illness that took him, but the fact that he had completely given up, depressed because he was told that

he should not see his family, and that they could not come to visit him during his time in the hospital. These are my stories, but I know, as we all do, countless people whose friends and relatives have declined or died in very similar situations, in direct result of Governor DeWine's lockdown order.

For the reasons I listed above, and for countless more, I urge you all to vote "Yes" on SB 22.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Dan Continenza, DC