

Dr. Jennifer Geyer
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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 that have been taken under the current emergency powers and the dire effects it is having on all of us.

Nearly a year ago, the governor unilaterally declared an unending state of emergency which he appear to have no intention of bringing to a close. The governor has essentially seized power under the guise of a public health emergency and refused to let that power go. Countless times, he has moved the goal posts with arbitrary orders that have done nothing to stop a virus as logic suggests and science and history confirm that viruses cannot be stopped.

SB22 restores the balance of power to where it should be, between the three, COEQUAL branches of government, and finally gives a VOICE to the PEOPLE of Ohio via their legislators during a declared emergency. The people feel they have not had a voice for many, many months now as our legislature has done little to protect us from a medical dictator.

Our businesses, our economy, our social and emotional well-being, and the future of our children are all on the line. Our state cannot thrive under the continued oppressive and unopposed orders of our over-reaching governor. People are divided and turning on each other. Families have been broken up. Domestic abuse has increased. Suicide and drug overdoses are at an all-time high. This is the governor's legacy.

When a person tries to seek medical care, no other diagnosis or illness matters if you have a single symptom of "COVID". I was refused services for lab work requested by my doctor because I had sinus drainage. My husband refused to seek services for a medical issue because he knew they would focus only on whether or not he had COVID like they did with his friend who was isolated and left to deteriorate and eventually die because of being diagnosed with COVID while hospitalized. I know of countless other examples where something similar has happened. People are simply not able to get true healthcare anymore because one diagnosis supersedes all other illnesses in this state.

Because of COVID restrictions in higher education, my son, who is a college student, was isolated in a room for 14 days after he tested positive for COVID. No one at the school checked on him. No one gave him any treatment. They dropped food off at his door which was often cold or contained dairy which he is allergic to. They were more concerned about him "spreading" the virus than the effects of the virus on him and his life. Is this how we are to treat others because of one illness that has demonstrated itself not to be the monster the governor claims it to be?

I know many, many, many people who have had the virus and survived without being hospitalized. Based on the sheer numbers of cases to date, it is obvious that masks have done nothing to curb the spread of this virus, yet thousands upon thousands of people have survived with little inconvenience or drain

upon the healthcare system. This does not even include the number of individuals who have had the virus but were never tested. There are so many people who have now been documented as a case that certainly Ohio has reached a level of herd immunity that no longer necessitates.

Please rein in a tyrannical governor drunk with power using manipulated data and biased science to justify his actions. Please consider the thousands of other medical professionals who have tried to combat the narrative being used to seize power by sharing the truth about our understanding of COVID as we now know a lot about this virus. Please do not be a willing party to the violation of the rights of millions of people. I beg of you! Stand up and do something that matters. Please protect our personal liberties and the future of our state by voting YES on SB22!

Thank you,

Dr. Jennifer Geyer