

Written Testimony of Jessica Hartman
Support SB 22
Government Oversight and Reform
Feb 1, 2021

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

I am a concerned citizen in Ohio asking for your support of SB 22. The over-reaching orders issued over the last several months by the governor and the health director have affected my family in a negative way. Ohio needs checks and balances by giving the legislature the ability to rescind these orders.

Thank you for taking your time to read my written testimony. I feel the government is disconnected from society when such harsh measures are taken like they have been the past year. It has played out not so great for many people I know, suicides, job losses, mortgages and car payments not being met and so on. I can personally give a couple of other examples however. I personally lost my business of 10 years and career of 20 years. I loved my job. I NEVER ONCE complained about going to work, not once in twenty years! I had my first child at age 36. When I found out I was pregnant, I stopped offering chemical services, as I knew it would put my growing baby in harms way. I have been a nail and eyelash extension technician for 20 years. I had built a great clientele and was able to be the first nail tech in the Dayton area to open an independent spa. I also traveled as an International Educator for the worlds first and most trusted brand of eyelash extensions. Needless to say, my careers would require me to be up-close-and-personal with my clientele, holding hands and less than a foot from their face.

I took particularly good care of my health and after giving natural childbirth I decided to cut my hours from 12 to 14 hours a day to enjoy my baby boy a bit more. My clients were very understanding as I also found how loyal they were. Just a year later, coronavirus hit. After 4 weeks of quarantine my business was over, finished, kaput. My clients were afraid to come in even in my position, being a one-on-one independent spa. They were scared! My clients need serviced every two weeks. Once past the 4-week mark their lashes or nails are either grown off or in need of a new set. A lot of my clients who were not afraid to come in, unfortunately, could not afford it. A lot had lost their jobs also or just felt being in quarantine or working from home, there was no need to pay for luxury services. It was just too many not willing or able to come in, so I could not afford rent. Who knew how long that was going to last, or now shall I say, how long it has lasted.

Even though losing my career 20 years was hard, it's not nearly as rough as watching my one year old grow up in the midst of all of this chaos. For the majority of his life that he has been aware enough to know, people have worn a covering over their most expressive part of their face. Seeing, knowing, and understanding expression is very important at his age for his development. I can't imagine the fear and confusion he experiences. He doesn't understand why people are covering their face. He doesn't understand why people are so much colder now in grocery stores when they walk by. People used to smile at babies. I haven't seen that in months! Hardly any interaction. Even his grandparents wear masks around him because they are afraid is getting sick from us. He most likely doesn't even know what they look or sound like, as even their voice is muffled.

How can this be good for development? How do we know it's not affecting a toddler psyche? When will he be able to see his grandparents smile? Or strangers smile? Will he learn social skills? These are all questions that no one can answer because we have no scientific evidence. What are we doing to the next generation? Please I beg of you, vote "YES" in favor of SB22.