

February 2, 2021

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

My name is Mark Hartshorn, and I am testifying, today, in support of SB 22 as a concerned citizen of the state of Ohio. Governor DeWine's mandates have caused great pain and distress across our state, to businesses and regular citizens, alike. They have pitted neighbor against neighbor, storeowners against customers, doctors against patients, and have sharply divided our state like never before. Simple everyday tasks like grocery shopping and doctor appointments have turned into harsh confrontations, which have caused extreme ill will between everyone involved. Also, the governor and health department, with enthusiastic assistance from the news media, have caused extreme and irrational fear to spread across the state, to the point where some refuse to leave their homes.

Neither the governor, nor the health department, have the right to force a person to wear a mask on their face. Masks do not work and may actually do more harm than good. They also do not have the right to us how late we are allowed to stay out in public, each night. Lastly, they do not have the right to force privately owned businesses to close early or to give them arbitrary guidelines as to who they can serve and how they can serve them. We are an independent, sovereign people. Governor DeWine has greatly overstepped his authority by issuing these unconstitutional mandates, and we the people have had enough.

Furthermore, by depriving our state legislators of the ability to counter the actions of the governor and health department, the state of Ohio has stripped its citizens of their collective voice in the state government. Senate Bill 22 will restore that voice and empower our legislators to act in accordance with the will of their constituents, and will restore the balance of power between the executive and legislative branches of government within the state of Ohio.

Thank you for hearing my testimony, today.

Respectfully,

Mark D. Hartshorn

Marietta, Ohio