

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

I am testifying today in writing in favor of SB22 as an Ohio resident deeply concerned about courses of action being taken under the current emergency powers and the dire effects it is having on all of us.

My name is Daniel A. Herring, D.O. I am a Board Certified Family Physician, husband and father of three wonderful children. I hope to share both my personal and professional stories to support my position in favor of SB22.

As a family physician, I see a wide range of patients with a broad range of backgrounds, beliefs, and medical conditions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I have directly taken care of patients with COVID-19 at nursing homes as well as seen people in my office who have recovered from COVID-19 and even had patients die from the disease. My wife’s cousin is currently in the hospital fighting for her life due to COVID-19. Like many Ohioans, I am invested and have a stake in the COVID pandemic.

Over the past 11 months, I have seen many patients delay both their routine as well as acute medical care due to the COVID-19 pandemic. More specifically, they have delayed getting tested for preventative care as well as getting diagnostic lab work and tests due to the fear of going out due to COVID. As a result, I have diagnosed and seen more patients in the past 11 months with delayed cancer diagnoses than ever before. Some of these people have already died and cannot benefit from your actions today. I have taken care of children who have contemplated and even attempted suicide due to the often-ignored negative aspects of “virtual” learning. I have seen patients in nursing homes isolated and depressed due to the lack of in person visitation from family and friends. This has even led to their premature deaths in some cases.

As a husband, I am married to a woman who has extreme difficulty with anxiety. She is a strong and confident person normally, but the mask mandates and subsequent shunning by businesses has made her seem like a prisoner in her own home. She fears going to the store without me in case of confrontation. Despite the “medical” exemptions in the mask mandate by Governor DeWine, most businesses are poorly educated on what this really means in terms of their business as well as their ability to be fined or not for allowing people into their businesses with mask medical exemptions. Simply put, the Governor has enacted a mandate and extended his power beyond his ability and then poorly educated both the public and businesses about how to apply that mandate to equally protect the public as well as preserve the rights of all citizens.

I personally do not have a problem wearing a mask. Despite wearing one, I do not think that masks really protect much from COVID as many people do not wear their mask properly and no one has ever come out and indicated which masks are better than others. Despite this, the Governor's mandate has made people powerless. In writing this letter, I hope that you support SB22 and free all Ohioans from such abuses of power and restore our faith in Government again.

Thank you,

Dr. Daniel Herring