

February 2, 2021

**Written (Proponent) Testimony in regards to SB 22 presented to the Government Oversight and Reform Committee of the Ohio Senate -134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly – by Ravi Kulasekere PhD, ND**

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **supporting** SB 22. A bill to amend sections 3701.13, 3715.74, and 4935.03 and to enact sections 103.65, 103.651, 107.42, and 107.43 of the Revised Code to establish legislative oversight of the Governor's executive orders and certain public health orders, including by establishing the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee.

My name is Ravi Kulasekere, a practicing board certified doctor of traditional naturopathy and a PhD medical physicist by training with over a dozen years working in the field of cancer care. I am writing to express my support to SB22 as a concerned Ohio citizen, a caring parent, holistic health practitioner and a scientist. I have been carefully observing the many draconian COVID-19 policy decisions that were made by the Director of the ODH as well as the Governor of Ohio, based on bad models and the sole interpretation of selected data and science at their discretion. These two individuals did not seem to care what the evolving data or science or even the evidence presented from the field, in making these decisions that affected the lives of millions of Ohioans adversely. Their sole intention was to limit the spread of a virus with failed policies, while people's loss of livelihood, loss of children's education, serious emotional, mental and physical trauma to both children and adults alike and every other adverse aspect that these policies made in the lives of Ohioans that were summarily ignored. More importantly our constitutional rights as free citizens of the state were trampled upon in the process as well.

While we were facing the passage of an infectious disease through our State, such unilateral actions do not serve the public well. The voice of many, and especially that of those who have been elected to serve the public and uphold their constitutional rights and privileges, should be included in making such decisions and taking actions that affect the people physically and emotionally. It is also concerning that these actions also forced Ohioans to in many ways participate in a specific allopathic health care system which is not what the protections of the Ohio Constitution guarantees us. People are free to choose what healthcare system they want to participate in and many Ohioans are currently turning to holistic health for their own health and well-being. Therefore, these people also need a voice and should not be drowned out by the only mainstream system that they do not participate in for prevention and wellness. As a natural health practitioner, it is also deeply disturbing to me that the governor's COVID-19 policies completely ignored healthy people and the assumption that everyone is presumed sick was adopted. This is not only unscientific but also deeply detrimental to the mental and emotional health of individuals, especially children. The fact that the voice of alternative health which is accepted around the world is missing from all of these considerations is also a disturbing aspect for those who do not participate in the allopathic model of care as the primary means of infection and disease prevention.

For almost a year now we have endured the failed policies of both the Governor and the Director of Health and it is time to change the course we have been on with a more accountable system with transparency, integrity, limited power and a voice for all. It is also imperative that no individual elected

or unelected has the authority to abuse their powers and trample on the fundamental constitutional rights granted to us. No infectious disease should make the constitutional freedoms null and void. No individual should also be able to determine whose business or livelihood is more essential than another's and call for the closure of such entities putting people's physical and mental health at a higher risk than from the virus. It is therefore in the best interest of all Ohioans that powers of individuals to make such orders be limited. Such health emergencies and orders should also be reviewed periodically and be approved by a legislative oversight committee who have been elected by the people to serve and uphold the constitution, and who will have the opportunity to investigate the necessary science and evidence from many viewpoints. I therefore urge you to vote YES on SB22 and bring back integrity, legitimacy and transparency to the State of Ohio in handling the present situation as well as future ones.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Kulasekere', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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