

Dr. Elizabeth A. Laffay, DO on behalf of SB22
Government Oversight and Reform Committee
02/01/2021

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, and Ranking Member Craig, and members of the committee:

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony for this incredibly important bill. As have all Ohio citizens, the singular power of the governor during this extended emergency order has effected me greatly. At the foundation, it has rocked my faith in our government. From a medical perspective I have watched this "emergency" order last for almost a year, which I cannot make sense of, and discerned intense exaggeration and manipulation of the pandemic statistics and numbers throughout Ohio by your reporting experts. We the people, have had no voice in government at all, and we are supposed to be the first line of that algorithm! There has been no balance between the branches and our lay input to beg for the restoration of it with SB311 was thrown off like a bad habit when Larry Obhoff just didn't bring it to a vote. As a constituent it is a very helpless feeling, and does not bode well.

The management of things around this emergency order has kept us all oppressed needlessly. I have had to stand by while my children have only seen the inside of a classroom 36 non-consecutive days since last March. I watched it change their personalities to be so removed from their schoolmates for so long, while I advocated my local school board only to have them respond that they will fall in line with anything the governor says. I had to stand by while my friends and neighbors slip into anxiety, depression and despair over loss of business, livelihood, joy and hope. I have to stand by while my patients are not allowed to have their family present with them while they are ill and afraid; while healthy kids and people can't participate in life and activities because of strict unfounded quarantining measures.

There desperately needs to be evidence and direct correlation presented to support these harsh measures and languishing mandates. There desperately needs to be accountability and more input into this decision making process. I believe this committee would provide that, and restore balance to the governmental branches by it's proper design.

Thank you for allowing me to provide this testimony. Regards, Dr. Elizabeth A. Laffay, DO