

## **GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT AND REFORM COMMITTEE**

### **WITNESS TESTIMONY: ANN MANZI**

I am writing in support of SB 22. We need to restore the balance of power in our State government. Governor DeWine has inflicted tremendous damage on the citizens of this state with his mandates and restrictions. The most abused and hurt group of citizens, in my opinion, are our children! I will be using this testimony to express how my own children have been harmed during this so-called pandemic:

I have two children: One is seventeen and in high school and the other is ten and in fifth grade. My high school daughter has spent most of her sophomore year learning online – isolated in her room on the computer not socializing with friends. She would occasionally text her friends and have conversations but would not be able to meet up with any of them personally because of the FEAR our governor has instilled in our society. As a result, she went through periods of depression and anxiety. I ended up quitting my job so that I could spend as much time with her as possible and overcome her depression. My ten-year-old son experience similar periods of depression and anxiety. In the elementary school he attends all the students must wear a mask, sit in plexiglass cubicles, follow arrows when walking in the hallway, and cannot use lockers for his supplies for FEAR of catching Covid. This is a horrible situation for my son because he is a happy-go-lucky who is very social and is now being told that he cannot be near and have fun with his friends. As a result, he now hates going to school! I have to have a pep talk with him every morning and drive him to school to help him overcome his anxiety. He doesn't smile anymore and that brings me to tears! I want my son back!!

Please pass SB 22 and allow my children to be kids again!