

Megan Prough

SB 22

Government Oversight and Reform Committee

February 1, 2021

Madam Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and honorable members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee: thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 22. My name is Megan Prough. I am an Ohio native, and moved back to my hometown in June of 2019 after spending 8 years in the Chicagoland area. I am a mother of 4, and run a furniture and design business from my home. I became active in politics for the first time in March of 2020, not because I love it, but because I was feeling the effects of the Covid crisis, as were and still are 11.7 million fellow Ohioans. I have witnessed our state government leaders overreach and abuse their power and influence for almost a year now. I have watched and heard multiple government leaders at the township, city, county, and state level pass the buck on their role and ownership in this crisis, including staying silent and complacent. And I will admit my fault and complacency in this for years. I was uninformed, inactive, and unaware of the policies and laws that were being made. And I naively thought these policies didn't affect me or my family much. I was very wrong. And I am waking up to the power of the people and learning the necessity of being informed and active.

I am here as a proponent of Senate Bill 22 because our government needs checks and balances. Accountability in all arenas is absolutely necessary. I have never once been in an environment that lacked accountability that was healthy and fruitful, and we, in Ohio, are severely lacking accountability. While Senate Bill 22 still gives government and health departments more power than I would like, it does give the legislative branch that has been missing from most of the decisions in this declaration of emergency, a seat at the table. This is vital. Your voices matter because you represent the people all across the 88 counties in our state. One person or branch of government should never have the power to unilaterally run the lives of people in an

entire state or community. Ohioans deserve to be empowered to live their lives instead of being condemned, threatened, and manipulated into surrendering their freedoms that were never the government's to take in the first place.

Whether you personally agree with the governor's emergency policies or not, the legislature has a duty and responsibility to hold the executive branch in check. Ohioans have been without this necessary accountability measure for almost a year (in regards to the Covid crisis). Please be a part of rectifying the equal powers within the three branches of government by voting yes on Senate Bill 22. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.