

RE: Ohio Senate Bill 22: Proponent Testimony

February 1, 2021

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

I am sending my testimony today 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 has had on all residents of the State of Ohio for more than the past 10 months.

In a United States Supreme Court decision last year, Justice Samuel Alito, in the dissenting opinion on the case of *CALVARY CHAPEL DAYTON VALLEY v. STEVE SISOLAK, GOVERNOR OF NEVADA, ETAL.*, along with Justices Clarence Thomas and Brett Kavanaugh, stated that “simply slapping on” an emergency label does not allow the fundamental rights of citizens to be negated through extended lockdowns, curfews and business restrictions.

Justice Alito further stated, “The vision of early 20th century progressives and the New Dealers of the 1930s was the policymaking would shift from narrow-minded elected legislators to an elite group of appointed experts. In a word, the policymaking would become more scientific. That dream has been realized to a large extent.”

Unfortunately, we can see that dystopian society in all of its ugliness through the actions of a tyrannical governor who originally declared that we will take two weeks to flatten the curve, and wear a mask for six weeks, but is not willing to lay aside his power – at the insistence of the Ohio Department of Health - after all of these months.

What will be the next issue of public policy that is bogusly declared to be a health “emergency,” only so that the governor – any governor – might hold the citizens of the State of Ohio captive at their whim and to advance only their agenda?

SB22 can restore the balance of power to where it should be, between the three, COEQUAL branches of government, and finally gives a VOICE to the PEOPLE of Ohio via their legislators during a declared emergency.

Our businesses, our economy, our social and emotional well-being and the future of our children is on the line. Our state cannot thrive under the continued oppressive and unopposed orders of an over-reaching Governor, now or in the future.

Please stand up with us as citizens of Ohio and protect our personal liberties and the future of our state by voting YES on SB22!

Thank you,

Richard E. Russell

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