

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Chairman Roegner, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the State and Local Government Committee: My name is Stacey Sigetic and I have lived my entire life in Ohio. I am testifying in favor of SB 22 today as an Ohio resident and nurse who is deeply concerned about courses of action being taken under the current emergency powers and the negative effects it is having on all of us. I have been astounded at the lack of transparency that has occurred in our great state. The Governor has implemented several mandates that in my professional opinion do not equate to health: the 10:00pm curfew, the sewer order and the mask mandate are just a handful of the many orders that make little sense to me. I am including an article that I would have loved to read in person but am not able to do so: <https://allinohio.com/an-epidemiologists-perspective-on-covid-19-the-other-side/>

This bill restores the balance of power to where it should be, between the three COEQUAL branches of government and RE-OPENS Ohio.

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 orders of our over-reaching Governor.

I personally have felt the ill effect of the ever-increasing mandates and the fear campaign by the governor. My young son who has a hearing deficit cannot go many places in public these days. He has not been able to attend in person speech therapy services since February of this year. He also can not enjoy going to the library with me, due to the strict mask policy in place which does not allow for exemptions or for me to wear a shield so he may see my lips as I speak or read to him.

I have witnessed firsthand my own mother lose her job that she has been at for over twenty years. She is barely making enough on unemployment to pay her bills and she is severely depressed. She has encountered interruptions in her Ohio unemployment- causing her much fear and worry as to how she will be able to make her car payment or buy groceries. My mother is single, she has always shown me a strong work ethic and a commitment to her employer. She was loyal for all these years and is now left with little. She is not able to get a job though she has applied for many open positions. The restaurant she worked at for all these years never reopened after being shut down for in person dining in March. In March, her church of five years also closed, and she again lost a crucial part of her social life. She has lost her purpose and struggles daily with depression and worry.

I think of the many men and women who have served our great country. There has been enormous amount of sacrifice poured into this country. America is founded on liberty. I cannot help but mention my own husband who recently finished his third deployment to the Middle East. I am so proud of him. The work and sacrifice it takes to go to another country really is an amazing undertaking. These heroes did not give it all so that we would hand it back for sense of security that honestly no one can ensure. This beautiful life is worth living and doing so freely.

Please stand up and protect our personal liberties and the future of our state by voting YES on SB 22!

Thank you,

Sincerely

Stacey Sigetic