

Jill M. Smith
Vote Yes on SB22
Ohio Health Oversight & Advisory Committee Feb. 1, 2021

Dear Chairman, Vice-Chair, Ranking Members & Honorable Members:

My name is Jill M. Smith. I am providing written testimony in support of a Yes Vote on SB22. The state of Ohio needs this bill because it will help restore it and will allow my limited voice to be heard and expressed by my intended representatives.

The abuse of the Emergency Use Authorization caused much hardship for my friends and family. Many lost their private businesses while billionaires gained in monopolizing our basic needs during these past 10 plus months! This also caused harm financially to my family along with medical discriminations.

Decisions were being made by government officials who did not know why my doctors provided us with necessary medical exemptions. We were either asked to ignore our exemptions or we were not allowed to enter certain places despite our good health. For example, I wore a face shield. I have health issues that restrict my breathing without a mask let alone having too. After 10 months of being able to enter Whole Foods, I was told two weeks ago they changed their policy and face shields were no longer allowed. Despite all the plexiglass between me/employees and the fact at a two man table two feet apart people were conversing without masks and I was not allowed in the door without a health screening by a minimum wage employee with no medical background(HIPAA?). The irony was I just came from my doctor's where I wore my shield and had a clean bill of health, but my shield was too scary to enter Whole Foods. Needless to say, that was my final trip there.

To add insult, I was to have an eye appointment last week but had to cancel my because they would not honor or accommodate my medical exemption and allow me to shield; why couldn't the doctor shield and mask? I have been to a dermatologist's office, dentist, orthodontist, and chiropractor for adjustments with my shield, but a medical facility turning me away is absurd.

The inconsistencies cause undo stress and anxiety. I have children with medical exemptions. One has risked their health due to circumstances put on them instead of doing what's in their best interest, causing me more stress because we are medically responsible for our child we are trying to raise to listen to ones body and make wise choices. We are also discriminated against because we are unable to fly as there is no section of the plane to allow us or accommodate us. This shows the inconsistencies across the board and why a yes vote for SB22 would help bring balance to Ohio.

The EUA asked us to violate our medical freedoms in the false name of security but our Governor DeWine, Health Director at the time Dr. Acton and Lt Governor Husted offered and insighted fear on the citizens of Ohio. I will never forget last spring calling the state house after Amy Acton said laughingly,"Many of us would be offed in the coming year!"It was like listening to sickening propaganda without useful information to better support our immune systems and how to treat us if we were ill. Their treatment was fear mongering and thanks to their harmful words they successfully put a wedge between my family members and I due to unnecessary fear. I had many sleepless nights worrying about family! This points out the harm overreaxh by the government.

It's awful we are practicing, "Sick until proven healthy here in Ohio."

My husband took a significant paycut and his company is for sale now due to hardship during this pandemic, while my town increased our property taxes 20 percent! There was no vote on this! My husband is a United States Army Veteran with This is sick in what he, my grandparents and great grandparents before them fought for, our very freedom and to protect and keep us safe from tyranny. We need checks and balances; we have not been able to get help from our government officials.

I write this just to show that these measures were too long and emotionally and physically abusive to our economy and overall well-being.

Please Vote Yes to SB22 so this government overreach never happens again!!

Sincerely,

Jill M. Smith