



Proponent Testimony for Senate Bill 22
Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
February 3, 2021

Chairwoman Roegner, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee, I am here today to voice support for Senate Bill 22.

I am Stephanie Stock, President of Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom, a non-partisan non-profit advocating for Ohioan's right to choose or refuse any medical treatment or procedure, including vaccination. Our organization represents an active community of over forty thousand.

According to the Ohio Department of Education, there are currently over 1.6 million students enrolled in Ohio schools. A recent report released by the CDC concerning the estimated vaccination coverage among children enrolled in kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year estimated a 92.4% coverage. Based on that estimation, OAMF believes that the parents and guardians of over 125,000 students in the state are utilizing the philosophical, religious, and medical exemptions from vaccination that the Ohio State Legislature established.

You may wonder, what does this have to do with legislation that establishes "legislative oversight of the Governor's executive orders"?

Since March of last year, the world has become a very different place. One where public officials around the country, and indeed in Ohio, have implemented state mandates, in the name of mitigating a pandemic, restricting various liberties of citizens who, in nearly all cases, are not ill – nevermind contagious.

As the public grows more impatient with strict mandates and everyone wishes to resume some level of "normalcy", new efforts to "mitigate" the spread of Coronavirus are being announced – many of which only intended to maximize vaccine coverage. For example, in Ohio, Governor DeWine asked school districts to commit that their teachers would get vaccinated, almost implying that it was a prerequisite for schools to return to regular in-person classes. Another example, several airlines have announced that travelers may soon be required to have a Covid vaccine in order to travel.

Many Americans, who cannot or choose not to be vaccinated, fear that the world is becoming a place where they will not be permitted to travel, attend concerts or sporting events, or send their kids to school. And once these new social constructs and technologies are in place, we will be a signature away from an unchecked Governor mandating vaccines for all.

Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom strongly believes checks and balances are necessary to ensure that one single individual is unable to make such unfettered mandates and urges you to vote in favor of Senate Bill 22.

God Bless! Sincerely,

Stephanie Stock, LPTA
President, Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom
Parent of a child that suffered a vaccine injury.