

February 2, 2021

RE: SB 22 – Proponent Testimony

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

I am testifying in favor of SB 22 as an Ohio resident deeply concerned about the ongoing actions under the current (expired) emergency orders, and the detrimental effect it's having on Ohio's economy and residents—especially small businesses, children, college students, and people with disabilities.

I urge you to please stand up and protect Ohioans and the future of our state by voting YES on SB 22.

Following the devastating, disappointing inability to override DeWine's SB 311 veto, SB 22 is a second chance to do this right, to return the balance of power to where it should be—between three co-equal branches of government.

Ohioans are suffering under the most contagious and dangerous sickness of all—fear. We've lived in this altered state of reality for nearly a full year now, and it's painfully clear that we need checks and balances returned to this situation as soon as possible.

“Two weeks to flatten the curve” has evolved into a never-ending “new normal” that we cannot allow to be treated as such in the absence of real, unbiased science to back it up. Jobs lost, livelihoods destroyed, friendships and family relationships frayed and divided, and untold damage done to the mental state of Ohioans of all ages—where does it end?

This saga has affected each person uniquely, and while I've fared better than most, I've still struggled deeply with the loss of normalcy throughout 2020 and into the new year. I've passed through periods of overwhelming hopelessness, depression, and anxiety due to watching this go down around me and seeing my family relationships and friendships struggle under its weight. I've seen family, friends, and co-workers mentally devastated by this situation, and I fear they'll never rebound. It has to stop.

We need balanced government leadership sans fearmongering going forward. We need transparency of data, and government policy informed by that data and its trends. We need to move past the inconsistencies and falsehoods that have propped up this year-long endeavor, regarding misleading data representation and improper use of PCR tests as diagnostic tools (which are generating staggering amounts of false positives, due to use of too-high amplification cycle counts and mass testing of healthy, asymptomatic people).

Please do everything within your power to put proper checks and balances back into place urgently. Decision-making power *must* be shared as it was intended, not solely wielded by one person.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please support and vote YES on SB 22!