

From: Kelly Varndell, BSN, RN
February 1, 2021

Good morning Chairman, Vice Chairman and members of the committee. Thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony for SB22.

The unilateral orders that have been issued by Governor Dewine and the Health Director since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic have had a direct negative effect on myself and my families' well-being. Due to the Governor's orders my family has been isolated from our loved ones, one of whom died alone of neglect from starvation in a nursing home in July of 2020 because we were not allowed to see him. I have an exemption from the mask mandate, yet I have been denied direct access to medical care and public establishments due to the mask order. I work in a long term care facility for mentally handicapped adults. I have watched my residents be separated from their loved ones over the last year. My Residents have been isolated from their community due to the Governor's orders, a community in which they had been widely active. I have 40 residents I care for who have suffered from depression, anxiety and fear because of Governor DeWine's overreach.

I am a wife and mother who has 4 remaining children at home. Due to Gov. DeWine's orders my children have been shamed and discriminated against. We have been verbally assaulted in public. My children have had their education and socialization obstructed. While we can still go to Walmart we cannot go to public parks or attend church. My children have suffered mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually, socially and academically by these arbitrary and reckless orders.

We are not a dictatorship! Ours is a Constitutional state. Our freedoms are set forth by said Constitution. Yet, DeWine is allowed to remove our freedoms without any recourse. He has destroyed our economy, set citizen against citizen, revoked our freedoms of movement, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness! I am asking that you protect the citizens of Ohio, my family included, and hold Governor Dewine accountable for every order he attempts to pass.

Vote Yes on SB22. Restore our Constitutional Freedoms and salvage our State. Restore the balance of power in our state government.

Thank You,
Kelly Varndell