



The Ohio Senate
Senate Government Oversight & Reform
Senator Kristina Roegner, Chair

SENATE BILL 22
INTERESTED PARTY WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in regard to Senate Bill 22 (“SB 22”), which establishes the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee and will allow for the General Assembly, through concurrent resolutions, to rescind executive orders issued by the Governor in response to a public health state of emergency.

University Hospitals is a Cleveland-based super-regional health system that serves more than 1.2 million patients in 15 Northeast Ohio counties. The hub of our 19-hospital system is University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, a 1,032-bed academic medical center of which Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital (UH Rainbow) is a significant part. University Hospitals strives to strengthen the health care needs of our community by providing outstanding service, the highest quality physicians and nurses, and using innovative techniques.

SB 22 creates the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee whose purpose will be to advise the Governor in matters of public health and will allow the committee to rescind executive orders issued by the Governor in times of public health emergencies. This Committee will consist of members from both the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate with the staff of the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee providing administrative assistance.

As a leading healthcare system, University Hospitals is committed to acting as a resource and voice to both the community and the government during this pandemic. Since SB 22 proposes a new system of decision making with the creation of this Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee, we want to ensure that the General Assembly and all those making decisions will rely on medical professionals, along with major hospital systems like University Hospitals, to inform their decisions.

We also want to bring to your attention the fact that the bill limits the duration of the public health state of emergency to 30 days unless extended by the General Assembly. We are grateful for the waivers and flexibilities that have been enacted to respond to this pandemic through the federal public health emergency and the state-level public health emergency. These flexibilities and waivers have been critical to address infection control, enable capacity, address critical

staffing and supply issues, and minimize administrative barriers in order to efficiently respond to the immediate patient and community needs. Any disruption to these flexibilities could pose serious challenges to UH and the patients we serve. Many of the changes to operational workflows cannot be turned off with the flip of a switch. This is more reason why health systems like UH would appreciate having a seat at the table to explain the impact as decisions are being made.

Thank you Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee for this opportunity to provide feedback on this important legislation.

Robert Salata, M.D.

Chair, Department of Medicine
University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center
11100 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106

Claudia Hoyen, M.D.

Director, Pediatric Infection Control
UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital
11100 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106