

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee:

As a constituent in the state of Ohio, I am very concerned regarding this attempt to legislate emergency situations, especially in regards to health emergencies. I am over 65 and have diabetes, my son and grandson have asthma, and I have many other friends and relatives who would have potentially been added to the Ohioans who have suffered from Covid 19 or died from it, if not for the actions taken by our governor and director of the state department of health.

I do not believe that a board set up to review and potentially overrule or block the institution of health emergencies is something that is needed. This is akin to armchair quarterbacking, where a group of non-medical persons would have the ability to second guess healthcare professionals. This is wrong, and I don't want a bunch of legislators determining what may impact my health or well-being, just because they think they know best!!

Governor DeWine is one of the few governors who has stepped up and made sure his constituents were protected. He did so under the advisement of the DOCTOR who was the director of the State of Ohio Department of Health. Dr. Amy Acton was more than qualified to make recommendations that Mr. DeWine chose to follow and I believe saved many lives in our state.

Passing legislation like this is and would be harmful to those who are in the position of being the most vulnerable to health emergencies, such as the corona virus. I believe this would be another way of targeting communities of color, poor communities and those people who are elderly and disabled. I believe it is unconstitutional and would be another reprehensible attack on those who have little or no voice.

I am, therefore, opposed to any legislation or proposal that would put into place one more government board to control something that has worked and the only reason for it is to try to force those who may not agree to not be allowed to continue to do the work they are qualified to do.

Respectfully submitted,

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