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Ohio Public Health Association

#### Opponent Testimony – SB22

Chairperson Roegner, Vice Chairperson McColley and Ranking Minority Member Craig I am submitting this testimony for the record in opposition to SB22 which would:

- allow the General Assembly to rescind any executive order issued by the Governor, or any emergency declaration issued by the Governor (no matter the method used to declare the emergency), by passing a concurrent resolution and
- allow the General Assembly to rescind a special or standing order or rule for preventing the spread of contagious or infectious disease issued by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), by passing a concurrent resolution.

The bill then sets up an Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee to oversee the actions taken by the Ohio Department of Health to prevent the spread of contagious or infectious diseases and may, at any time, by a majority vote, rescind a special or standing order or rule for preventing the spread of contagious or infectious diseases.

In each of these instances the prescribed action would systematically erase the separation between the branches of state government and eradicates those powers vested in the elected Governor by the people of Ohio. It also interferes with the governor's capacity to act swiftly and decisively to protect Ohioans from three current types of emergencies the Governor has specific statutory authority to declare: an air pollution emergency, an energy shortage emergency, and an adulterated consumer product emergency.

We have seen in the unprecedented pandemic in which we currently find ourselves that quick action is required to:

- Identify the health hazard;
- Alert the citizens of the state to the clear and present danger;
- Begin immediately to stand up the human and material resources required to mitigate the threat; and
- Impose the necessary restrictions which will protect the health and well-being of Ohioans.

We recognize the hardship the orders of the Governor and his staff have placed on many Ohioans but know that the alternative, to do little, nothing or to act too slowly, would have led to the deaths of many more of our family members and neighbors.

Our primary focus now should be on getting as many people vaccinated as is possible in as quick a manner as we can. In these times and matters we need evidence based decisive action which is not represented in SB22.

For the sake of our families and neighbors, we ask that members of this Committee vote against SB22.

Thank you for taking time to consider our thoughts.