

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and the Honored Members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee I'm writing to you as a proponent for SB22. There should be a limit to what the power of one person can decide for the public without oversight. As a registered Republican who voted for Governor Dewine, I can no longer stand behind him in support after the dictator-like decisions he has made in the past year destroying so many peoples' mental health and livelihoods.

This has personally affected my family and my 10 year old son's **mental health**. We live in the Bowling Green City School District in Northwest Ohio. The Bowling Green City Schools have been 100% remote since last March and only recently have made a plan to go to hybrid learning solely on the basis of wanting to offer vaccines to their teachers. My children, however, are privileged enough to attend the Catholic Elementary in town and have been going to school in person 5 days a week since the beginning of the school year. I say they are privileged because not everyone has the means to afford the private education and even if they do there are limited spots available for the school. My children have always attended this school and were able to continue to do so. We are so happy that they are getting to go to school in person and can't imagine how much worse it would be if they weren't like so many of my friends' children. However, even though they are going into a building each day it is only a small step up from being in **prison** with all of the overreaching mandates of masking and distancing.

My son in 5th grade has **ADHD**. He has struggled with this since a young age and was diagnosed in first grade. We have made huge strides with him and he had a great last 2 years at school in 3rd and 4th grade. He is very smart and would get nearly all As on his report card with a B here or there. He is miserable this year and his most recent report card had two Cs on it. I would never expect that from him. He has verbalized many times to me in the last couple of months that he is **depressed** and I'm not sure how to even help him. He goes to school, but has to wear a mask all day. He has to sit still at his desk all day. They eat lunch at their desks, do band and music class in their rooms, tech class in their rooms, everything in their rooms. When they do get to play outside at recess they are restricted to one area of the playground to not mix their classes. His teacher tells me he is constantly interrupting the class or talking out of turn with irrelevant information. This is because a child with ADHD can not be expected to sit still in the same room all day at their desk.

These "**15 days to flatten the curve and not overwhelm the hospitals**" has turned into almost a year with ever moving goalposts. No one single person should have this much power over so many people. There is so much more information, statistics and data available now than there was in March of 2020 when this started. Citizens should have the right to make decisions for their own family based on their assessment of the risks of the situation. My child being forced into **depression** because of the governor's response to this virus is not acceptable and I'm not willing to sit by silently.

Regards,

Brandy Best