

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and Honorable Members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee,

My name is Jennifer Davis. Thank you for allowing me to share how Governor DeWine's covid response orders have affected my family, and how passing SB22 would be one step toward restoring our voices, our rights, and our freedom. I, like many Ohioans, have had those things stripped away - along with my family's basic safety. My husband does not wear a mask for medical reasons. A few weeks ago, he was attacked by another shopper at our local grocery store. Thankfully, he was able to keep the cart between himself and the attacker, and while he was badly shaken, he was not physically hurt.

What breaks my heart is that no one helped him. Everyone stood still and watched. This is the Ohio that Governor DeWine's orders have created: a place where it is ok to fear, hate, and even attack those who are not wearing a mask, because we're told they may kill Grandma by breathing. I now understand the true pandemic in Ohio is fear: fear of a virus with a high survival rate\*, and fear that every person in sight is contagious. The evidence and the data do not support that fear. My favorite job title these days is "Mom," but I am a biologist by education. The more I research and study the available data, the more I find that Governor DeWine has grossly misled Ohio.

How many Ohioans have been told about the study that concluded wearing a cloth mask may increase your chances of getting sick?\*\*\* How many know about the failed study where MIT researchers tried to link mask mandates with lowered covid hospitalizations? Scientists looked at data from 1,083 US counties with mask mandates in place - and cases INCREASED in every area they examined.\*\*\* They had to withdraw the study. How many Ohioans know about the growing body of evidence that asymptomatic people are not common or contagious at all? In Wuhan, China, for example, nearly 10 million people were screened; only 300 asymptomatic positive cases were found. Samples taken from those 300 people did not contain any viable virus, and none of their close contacts (1,174 people) went on to test positive. The study concluded that these asymptomatic positive individuals were not contagious.\*\*\*\*

These studies are merely the tip of the iceberg; yet they, and all the other studies like them, are squashed and hidden. Instead of truth and data, Governor DeWine has given us rules rooted in speculation and fear.

Some of those many rules prohibit our kids' dance studio from opening the lobby. Parents and siblings are not allowed to linger in the building. So, in this arctic cold snap, you can find me and my kids hanging out in the parking lot...for a stretch of six hours. Have you ever tried to put a wiggly child's hair in a bun, while comforting a crying little one and helping another kid get the right clothes on for the next class? All in the back of a minivan with heat blasting to try to keep the 15 degree wind chill out? I would joke about needing more coffee, but the reality of the situation is that I have to limit my liquid intake on dance day. The studio is 40 minutes from home, and because of the governor's mandates, the studio could get in trouble if I need to go inside to use the restroom. Governor DeWine's overreach affects my ability to take care of the most basic of human needs.

So it is that I find this pandemic of fear has infected me, too. I'm afraid for my husband's safety when he leaves the house. I'm afraid to get the staff at our wonderful dance studio in trouble. Mostly, though, I am afraid that Governor DeWine will continue unchecked to issue orders that are backed neither by data nor by science. This is not the Ohio I so love, where people used to smile at strangers and hold doors for them. This is the Ohio where shoppers are attacked in grocery aisles. Governor DeWine made mandates that affect me and my family greatly - all without giving us a voice in those decisions. That is not how our Constitution works. All Ohioans deserve representation in these matters. I urge you to vote yes on SB22 and to work toward restoring the balance of power upon which our beautiful state and our great nation are built.

Thank you,

Jennifer Davis  
Licking County, Ohio

Sources:

\* To date, we have had 10,468 confirmed deaths out of 801,505 confirmed cases in Ohio. This equals a mortality rate of 1.3%. 791,037 people out of 801,505 confirmed cases have not died, which is 98.7%.

Ohio Department of Health Coronavirus Dashboard. Retrieved from <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/key-metrics/cases> on 2/9/2021 at 3:30 PM.

\*\* "This study is the first RCT of cloth masks, and the results caution against the use of cloth masks. This is an important finding to inform occupational health and safety. Moisture retention, reuse of cloth masks and poor filtration may result in increased risk of infection."

MacIntyre CR, Seale H, Dung TC, Hien NT, Nga PT, Chughtai AA, Rahman B, Dwyer DE, Wang Q. A cluster randomised trial of cloth masks compared with medical masks in healthcare workers. *BMJ Open*. 2015 Apr 22;5(4):e006577. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2014-006577. PMID: 25903751; PMCID: PMC4420971.

\*\*\* "The authors have withdrawn this manuscript because there are increased rates of SARS-CoV-2 cases in the areas that we originally analyzed in this study."

Dhaval Adjodah, Karthik Dinakar, Samuel P. Fraiberger, George W. Rutherford, David V. Glidden, Monica Gandhi. Decrease in Hospitalizations for COVID-19 after Mask Mandates in 1083 U.S. Counties. *medRxiv* 2020.10.21.20208728; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.10.21.20208728>

\*\*\*\* "In the present study, virus culture was carried out on samples from asymptomatic positive cases, and found no viable SARS-CoV-2 virus. All close contacts of the asymptomatic positive cases tested negative, indicating that the asymptomatic positive cases detected in this study were unlikely to be infectious."

Cao, S., Gan, Y., Wang, C. et al. Post-lockdown SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid screening in nearly ten million residents of Wuhan, China. *Nat Commun* 11, 5917 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-19802-w>