

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

My name is Lisa Dendinger. I live in Bellevue Ohio and Erie County.

Thank you for allowing me to share my personal and professional testimony regarding how the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions have been effecting me personally and professionally.

I am a wife, mother, grandmother and a Certified Nurse Practitioner.

I have been a Registered Nurse for 41 years spending the majority of my career working in the hospital setting, with almost 20 years in critical care. I have been a CNP for 12 years, and the past 7 years in the long term care setting. During the years in the hospital I worked through AIDS, SARS, H1N1, and seasonal influenza. Never did I see just drastic measures of isolation, public mask mandates, closures and the media spreading so much fear.

The isolation has been horrific to people residing in the long term care settings. I have seen a significant increase with accelerated decline and death for many of my residents (not related to COVID deaths) Family members and loved ones are a vital part of their livelihood and well being. When this right is stripped away both family members, residents and staff suffer. I have had the personal experience of having a family member in the LTC setting. My mother lived for almost 7 years in the nursing home. The staff became an extension of our family but it was very important to be involved in her care and visits. Staff doesn't have the time to spend as family was able to prior to COVID. Residents are lonely. They get tested 2 times a week, are quarantined to their rooms, activities are not happening, they aren't able to go out on field trips, etc. It just breaks my heart.

My husband has elderly parents. In the fall his father fell and fractured his pelvis, therefore was hospitalized for 5 days. Only 1 person was designated to visit for a limited time daily which was his 85 year old mother. When he was discharged he ended up right back into another hospital due to complications he was discharged with in hospital 1. My mother in law knew there was a problem but couldn't get the attention of the staff with her concern. If I or another family member could of seen him during the first hospital stay the outcome may have been different. This continues to be a major concern for hospitalized patients.

Personally I find it very offensive to have the government tell me that I can not see my family. We have 7 grandchildren from ages 2-11, 5 school age children. I had the opportunity to be with my 5 year old grand daughter for 4 days of virtual kindergarten. That was extremely difficult for everyone involved. Just try to keep a very active energetic 5 year old in front of the iPad on Zoom for 4 hours. There were breaks but the learning atmosphere was sub optimal. I have always respected teachers but this experience gave me a greater respect for what they can accomplish. I have 2 grandsons that live in Norwalk Ohio that have been going to in -class education for the entire school year. They had 1 calamity day due to teachers not available due to the quarantine not the illness.

I could continue but believe the examples I provided is enough to share my views and hardships that I see daily. Common sense prevails. We should be given the facts and guidance. Many business's in our area are permanently closed. We live close to Cedar Point. I would never consider going to this park if masks will continue to be mandated.

When will these restrictions be lifted and allow people to return to normalcy?

Who will make these decisions?

This is why SB22 is so important. This SB will allow time limits to emergency status and appoint a committee to review what is needed instead of 1 person.

Please support SB22 !

Thank you,
Lisa Dendinger APRN-CNP