

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on SB22.

The basis for my support of this bill is that the bible supports decentralized power.

Francis Schaeffer in his work, "How Should We Then Live" stood before a statue in a courthouse in Switzerland. There, lady justice has her eyes open, in one hand are the scales of justice, in the other hand is a sword pointing down to the bible.

What this represents is how justice is best served when laws are based on Christian consensus either directly or indirectly. Our heritage in the US is indirect.

The Bible supports decentralized power. When power was centralized with Kings the eventual outcomes were poor. King Saul was so overwhelmed with the leadership responsibilities, it is likely he went insane leading to lost wars. King David took a census, and the nation of Israel suffered a pestilence that ended in punishment of 70,000 people. King Solomon burdened his citizens with excessive taxes that eventually contributed to the splitting of the nation of Israel.

We must assume that all the leaders had the opportunity to hear debate from prophets, elders, or council. Yet, they did not, and tragedy ensued, both national and personal.

Senate Bill 22 prevents the danger of this same abuse of power in the past and in the future.

Let me ask rhetorically, does anybody in this chamber understand the difference between Infection Fatality Rate (IFR) and Case Fatality Rate (CFR) or the difference between Diagnostic Specificity and Analytical Specificity as it relates to test validity?

These terms and their application are complex, but understandable. Their understanding and application to our current Covid situation has huge implications. These implications and how they would result in policy should be debated on the floors of our state congress, not in a governor's office with a cabal of like minded scientists.

Within the Ohio Revised Code 3715.74 there is a control on a gubernatorial declared state of emergency that reads:

A public health state of emergency declared under this section shall exist for not more than sixty days unless extended by the governor for an additional thirty-day period, at which time the public health state of emergency shall

end unless it is extended by a concurrent resolution adopted by both houses of the general assembly. An amendment to an executive public health state of emergency order shall not be considered a new order.

That is a good section that recognizes the need for emergency power but limits the power, just like SB 22.

In conclusion, Frances Schaeffer in the aforementioned work said, “The Reformation allowed anybody to hold up the Bible and say the majority is wrong.” I’m holding up the Bible before you today and saying SB 22 should be written into law because of its Biblical precedence. I’m not holding that Bible with my own hands but also with the hands of our political and spiritual forebearers who valued freedom and knew how quickly it could morph into tyranny when power is centralized, and debate is forbidden.