

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. As a life-long resident of Ohio, I urge you to support SB 22. My family of 8, 6 kids ages 14 and under, have been adversely affected by the current unconstitutional restrictions/mandates from the DeWine administration in the following ways:

My husband's uncle was in the hospital for months due to a hip replacement that was not healing correctly. It is unknown if he received proper care, as no one who loves him (no one at all!) was able to visit him due to Covid restrictions and quarantine requirements. Every time he got close to the end of a 14-day quarantine period, he needed an off-site doctor visit or procedure that changed his location and the 14 day quarantine began again. His wife suffered immensely from worry and missing her husband. People hospitalized should be able to have family and/or loved ones visit them and advocate for them. No one at all should receive this kind of negligent care.

My immediate family has had to switch churches due to mask mandates and my sons are no longer able to serve at mass due to these unjust mandates.

My extended family has been torn apart over disagreements about masks efficacy and differing opinions on following mandates from our governor.

My children are homeschooled and this year our co op, that was scheduled to meet one day per a week with other homeschool families, was cancelled due to mask mandates and 'social' distancing requirements that were not able to be met in our usual co op location. Due to this, my kids have not been able to take the classes I had planned for them to take nor see their friends weekly.

I have read studies and have seen effects of masking on children and have made the decision to not mask my children. This has definitely limited what they are able to do since every place of business has a sign indicating that masks are required to enter. We cannot go shopping, roller skating, to movies, out for ice cream at our favorite local shop, nor out to eat.

I urge those that make the decisions in Ohio to take a stand in letting the people of Ohio make health decisions for themselves. I want the constitution to be upheld. Ohioans deserve our freedoms protected. That is the job of the government, not making health decisions for us.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony. May God bless you and guide you,  
Sarah Hardesty