

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

My name is Angie Harkins and thank you for reading my testimony on SB22.

I watched the testimony of proponents on February 3, 2021. I realized that I am like those who gave in person testimony and I would like to share mine.

I am a 57 year old grandmother who raises two grandchildren, ages 13 & 12. They have had severe problems over this 'pandemic'. Starting in March of 2020 when the schools shut down; my 12 year old girl, who was a very outgoing and social child, became ill with stomach problems and her once bright smile was gone. She saw no friends and no other family for months. I took her to the doctor. She gave her pills for her stomach and it seemed to work for a little while.

Fast forward to a new school year and I made the decision to keep them home for virtual learning. The two reasons for that were: Papaw is compromised with lung problems and I didn't want them wearing a mask all day. The virtual learning was horrible and my once A and B grade kids were failing. It wasn't long before I educated myself on the REAL facts of this virus and realized it wasn't as bad as the governor and the media were making it out to be. I decided to send the kids back to school after the winter break.

Now, here we are, about a month back in to school with masks and the 12 year old's stomach issues are worse. She tells me every day she feels like puking. She doesn't speak to anyone throughout the day unless she needs too. The 13 year old tells me how hard it is to breath in a mask and now I'm second-guessing myself about my decision to send them back to school.

The orders this governor and health director have made have been detrimental to my family. I didn't even touch on what it has personally done to me. No one person should ever be allowed to make such orders. Many people think it's the law and it's not.

I have had to leave businesses because I can't wear a mask. I have been in fear of going to the grocery store.

People should have the freedom to choose whether they want to wear a mask, whether they want to take a vaccine or other issues related to their health. There are plenty of doctors out there who would want to say the REAL facts but are afraid of losing their practice. The government wants all this federal money so they'll do what they need to do to keep it, even at the risk of causing mental and physical harm to their citizens. This has to stop!

Please pass SB22 so that We the People may have a say in how we want to address these issues. The people should not be under such dictating rule.

Thank you again for the opportunity to have my say.