

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

I am writing in support of SB22.

As a direct result of the spring shutdown, both my adult children lost their jobs. They now have jobs, but with a percentage of pay much less than what they were making prior to the shutdown. My daughter has yet to find a full-time job to replace the one she lost.

I know of many "mom and pop" businesses permanently out of business – businesses I frequented because I hold local businesses most valuable to my community. Most were community gathering places for years that did a great business and brought jobs to the community but will now never come back. I know servers and restaurant owners who have lost a large portion of their income due to the loss of in-house restaurant service.

My family knows 3 people who have committed suicide because of the shutdown.

My own family is under extreme duress and almost debilitating depression from the goalposts being moved almost weekly. My husband suffers from bipolar disorder and seasonal depression but this year it's been much, much worse. He's had it under control for years but this year I've gone back to having to worry about losing him solely because of the stress placed upon him by the restrictions on our freedoms and the gloom and doom of the twice-per-week press conferences.

My husband has had to argue with his family practitioner to access in-person care because his doctor insists on televisits. My husband has high blood pressure and is on several medications - how can blood pressure be taken and blood, required to make sure his liver is still healthy, be drawn via internet?

I myself am a nervous wreck going out into public. I am unable to wear a facial covering and while most people are understanding, I have been asked to leave retail establishments and am treated rudely as if I am some diseased animal by some customers who do not know me or my reason. I even had a mask thrown at me, all for a disease with an over 99% recovery rate.

I also worry about my mother, who lives by herself. Should something happen resulting in her hospitalization, because of the current order I would be unable to simply enter the hospital to discuss her health care with her and/or her caregivers.

I have friends and coworkers who have not seen their parents, who have dementia and other ailments, for many months because of the orders on the part of the governor and department of health.

It's inane to allow one person, and one person only, to order Ohioans to sacrifice their freedom and their rights with no end in sight, and to be chided, berated, and threatened twice weekly.

I look forward to seeing forward movement within this committee to restore Ohio citizens' rights and put into place a system of checks and balances that has been lacking these last 10 months.

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