

Michele Miller

2/3/2021

SB 22

Written Proponent Testimony SB 22

Madam Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig and honorable members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee. My name is Michele Miller and I am providing testimony as a concerned citizen on SB22. Thank you for allowing me to provide my proponent testimony. After eleven months of this pandemic, we still only have the governor and ODH making mandates for the whole of the state without any of our legislators having the ability to weigh in on such measures. We need the balance of power to be restored. Our government has always been balanced by the three COEQUAL branches. After eleven months we now have the data to see what counties have more cases than others. We can see that certain rural areas have less cases of Covid19 than those in heavily populated areas. With that said, why is the ODH and governor making mandates for the whole of Ohio as if each county is experiencing the same amount of cases? Shouldn't children be allowed to go back to school full time in areas where the cases are extremely low? Shouldn't small businesses be allowed to be fully open? We have had the mask mandates since July and per the data, this has not stopped any kind of spread of the virus. To the average citizen, that says to me that masks make no difference. If something is not working, why wouldn't that be removed from the protocols? Even doctors know that if a medication is not working for a patient, then they try another medication to see if it has a different effect. To me, it seems that the governor and ODH are doubling down for the sake of doubling down. Perhaps they don't want to admit that what they have done were the wrong protocols to enact. I would like to see the mask mandate abolished. This has had little to no effect, made certain areas of the population think that it's acceptable to attack others who won't or can't wear the mask and we have no idea the long term psychological harm this will have on our children.

It is extremely sad to see no one interacting in a grocery store, for example, with these mask mandates. No one talks, they keep their eyes downcast and you can't see people smile. Who have we become? Has what we done made us more loving and compassionate? I would say that is has not. We have seen people so terrorized by this that they think every human being is a pathogen, just waiting to kill someone in their path just by breathing. I've talked to my pastor recently in which he told me that there is no laughter and no play in my children's former school. What are we doing to our children? How has the last eleven months done to them psychologically? I approve the part of this bill where it states that we isolate those who are positive with a communicable disease. We shouldn't be isolating the whole of society.

I ask this assembly to uphold the US Constitution and Ohio Constitution. We want life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. As it stands, life is on hold, we do not have the liberties we once had, and happiness has dropped considerably. I strongly urge you to vote YES on SB 22.

Sincerely,

*Michele Miller*

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