

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

I am writing to strongly urge you to vote yes on SB22. One man cannot dictate the freedoms we can and cannot enjoy. Accountability must be restored.

What has happened to our rights under the constitution? They are greatly curtailed and I know the founding fathers would be horrified at what has been allowed to happen in the name of "safety".

Here are the ways that I, my loved ones and friends have been very negatively affected in the last year due to Governor DeWine's mandates and unconstitutional orders:

1. I was not permitted to visit my daughter during a very stressful one week hospital stay. Human touch is healing and I was unable to see her or hug her. It was agonizing only being able to talk to her on the phone. I would drop something off for her every day to encourage her and it was heartbreaking knowing that I was only feet away from her but couldn't actually see her.
2. I have watched as people were turned against each other and encouraged to "report" on compliance to the authorities. Our own tax dollars are being used to fund the Bureau of Workers Compensation and the monitoring of retail establishments. It is extremely disturbing to know that our governor would encourage fellow citizens to do this. This has divided our state in ways that we could not have imagined and cause great personal stress. It has also divided families of which mine is one.
3. Children have been greatly harmed by the response to the virus. Some have lost a year of their education and suffered abuse and harm that they never would have if they had been permitted to go to school. The poor have been especially adversely affected since they don't have the resources available to weather something like this. It is heartbreaking.
4. I personally know someone that killed themselves due to the isolation and hopelessness that was caused by the response to the virus. How many others are there that have overdosed on either alcohol or drugs?

I'm sure there is much more suffering that has occurred across our state that has yet to be known by the general public. Those stories are not given any air time.

I hope that you will put a stop to the lack of accountability and the violation of the constitution that has occurred in the last year.

This has set a precedent that is truly frightening.

Thank you for your time,

Gretchen Shipitalo