

Chairwoman Roegner, vice chair Craig and all members of the government over site committee. Thank you for excepting my written testimony.

I'm a mother of two and have my third child due in a couple weeks. This last year was hard for our family, my husbands hours have been cut since the emergency order started.

I own a small business and raise my children. We are now coming up on a year since this emergency was issued, the abuse of power has been something I never thought I would see. I've watched a dear friend not able to see his wife for 8 months and now he still is limited. They have been married 50 years and it's heartbreaking watching them both suffer. She is disabled and can't live outside of the nursing home she is in. I myself have several health conditions that prevent me from being able to wear a mask.

I have struggled with low blood pressure for 8 years and even a normal day can cause me to become light headed, out of breath, fatigued, and if it gets bad enough collapse. I have gone to many businesses that were respectful of my exemption, but I've gone to many that are not. I have been put in many awful situations thanks to the Governors manipulation and fear mongering. Putting out statements that wearing a mask means we care, love our neighbors, and won't kill grandma. I was shopping with my boys a couple months ago, they are both under 3 years old. I had a grown man come up and start screaming in my face in front of them because I can't wear a mask. My children cried and I felt threatened, I won't even take my children out unless I can't find a sitter. They shouldn't have to see grown adults treat people so awful. I have several other situations I could share.

I've struggled with chronic illness along time, with every situation I'm reminded of how my life isn't like everyone else's. I'm reminded I have a disability, I'm reminded in some people's eyes I'm not equal, I'm reminded of all the trauma I've been through. I have to have my labs done every month, I can't have my spouse with me. I get light headed every time and hope I make it out of the building without passing out. My husband waits outside for me. I've spent years learning about health and things to help me have an almost normal life. I eat strict, proactive with my health, and have spent years learning what fits my own health. My health is my own responsibility and I do care about others.

We have created a very mentally ill environment that now makes bulling and discrimination acceptable.

This entire pandemic, we have been told this is about protecting the most vulnerable and I do fall into that category. None of these mandates have protected me or our elderly. In fact, over 70% of our deaths were in nursing homes. Instead of focusing on treatment and support in these long term care facilities. Dewine and ODH have been harassing bars, restaurants, small businesses, mothers taking their children to playgrounds, preventing the support we need during pregnancy and child birth.

Please support this bill and equality for all people in Ohio. Please bring back due process and constitutional rights. I love our state and it's been my home my entire life.

Thank you!

Andrea Tousley