

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and the honored members of the government oversight and reform committee:

As a lifelong Ohio resident I feel I must speak out in favor of SB22. I have never been overly political but the events of the past year have made me realize that in order to make a change we must all be engaged in the process. It saddens me that our governor is ruling us like a tyrant and has been left to do so unchecked for almost a year. It's time for the legislature to take back the power granted to them by the constitution and expected of them by their constituents. We have been waiting and praying for someone, anyone to step up and defend us from the dictatorial mandates, closings and curfews that have been forced upon us. It is appalling to me the way businesses are being used to enforce these unconstitutional mandates and the way he is turning Ohioans against each other as a result of constant fear mongering. The undo stress and general lack of respect for others I see as a result of all this is abhorrent to me. Why are we still in a state of emergency after 11 months for a virus with a survival rate over 95%? Where is the data that backs up these continued restrictions? Where is the data that shows masks work as cases actually rose more after this state wide mandate was put in place. We the people deserve some transparency. There are more lives than just those who have contracted COVID at stake here. Who is speaking up for the people who can't enjoy a day out shopping without the fear of being ridiculed or physically confronted because they can't wear a mask? Do their lives not matter? Who is speaking for the children whose schools aren't in person who are falling behind scholastically and battling depression because they are stuck at home and can't see their friends? Do their lives not matter? Who is speaking out for our elderly who are being held captive in nursing homes unable to touch or see their loved ones? Why are businesses being allowed to go under and no one seems to care? Do those lives and livelihoods not matter? Is COVID the only thing that matters? I don't think so and my hope is that you can agree that it's time to find a better strategy to move forward. The time has come to act on behalf of your constituents who feel they no longer have a voice or say in how they choose to live their life and the risks they are willing to take. That isn't the life we are promised under our constitution. I implore you to pass SB22 and show your constituents you can and will protect their rights and the constitution you were elected to uphold

Thank you for your time and consideration

Tammy Wayts
Creston OH