

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

I appreciate you taking the time to read my testimony in favor of SB22. I am deeply concerned about the continued mandates, restrictions and actions the ODH and Governor have placed on the citizens of Ohio. The overreach has severely affected the economic, social and physical lives of **ALL** Ohioans.

As a parent of two elementary school-aged daughters, I am extremely thankful that our school district has been in school 5 days a week - this has been a blessing for my children. My youngest daughter struggled at the end her 2020 school year last year with the remote learning mandate. She is a little behind where she should be for her age and we continue working to get her caught up to where she needs to be in her grade level. My heart breaks for all the children that don't have the in-school learning, as I imagine there are many children behind where they need to be. Forcing parents to choose between working and assisting their children with remote learning is horrendous! Numerous studies and reports have shown that schools are one of the safest places to be and because of the ODH and Governor's mandates/restrictions/etc kids are continuing to suffer needlessly. All kids need to be back in school immediately. Taking away their social aspect of learning might even be worse! Socialization is key to these kids continued learning success!

Economically, I have had several family members struggle to make ends meet do to reduced hours, job cuts and the failure of the unemployment system in OHIO. How can one person have the power to determine what is essential and non-essential? The state of Ohio is an economic disaster and the economy needs to fully open back up. The bar and restaurant industry has been hit hardest and the Governor and his team continue to keep a tight leash on that area - with no proof of spread. They have even stated this since midsummer last year! How can you keep an industry shut down when you admit you have no proof? This is not keeping the state balanced, it is merely 1 sided.

I ask you to VOTE **YES** on SB22 to reclaim the checks and balances for the State of Ohio. The damage done to our children has to stop! The damage done to our state economically has to stop! We cannot continue this path if we wish to keep people in our great state.

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