

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, ranking member Craig, and the honored members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee,

Up is down, down is up, left is right and right is left. This is the Ohio we live in currently. I am emailing to submit my testimony as a wife, mother, and citizen of Ohio. A very concerned and angry one at that. I hope it is not too late to accept. I am doing so on behalf of myself, my husband, and my children. For what is coming up on almost a year, and since our Governor started issuing mandates regarding Covid 19, we have been stripped of our voices, stripped of our constitutional rights, and failed by our representatives whom we elected and put into office to uphold these rights and to restore the balance of power in Ohio.

From the beginning of the pandemic and the declared “state of emergency” until now, we have endured shutdowns, closures and restrictions on ALL things which create our society, our communities, and our lives. Our jobs and businesses, our stores and restaurants, our churches, our medical care, our children’s educations, our ability to socialize with family/friends, our travel. In essence ALL things related to living, have been negatively affected. We have been raped of our rights to make any personal choice regarding all of these facets. These same rights that have always been and should always be protected under the U.S. Constitution and the Ohio Constitution. Yet, sadly they have not. Our governor and the Ohio Department of Health were wrongly given carte blanche by our legislature. We need our legislature back, working as it should, in tandem with those they represent and the remaining branches of government. It is long past due.

At the start of the pandemic, there was clear confusion and fear regarding Covid 19. Understandably so. Almost all felt it and understood something must be done. We trusted those in leadership roles to make decisions for the best of Ohio. But we never expected one governor and unelected officials from ODH to be making these decisions by sole dictate and without our legislature. Thereby stripping Ohioans of their voices and having no representation at the state house. Decisions which over time became more and more restrictive and destructive, fear based and driven, which have only resulted in overwhelming, damaging, unintended consequences far outweighing any consequences from Covid 19 itself. Governor Dewine’s campaign of constant fear, in his press conferences, his messaging, his social media and advertising (to the tune of millions of taxpayer

dollars) have done nothing to help Ohioans through a difficult and stressful time. Rather, it has beaten down every man, woman and child with such psychological abuse that many will never recover. In addition, there is not one mandate or policy created in Ohio that has changed the course of this virus. The evidence and data on this exists and is clear, for our state, our nation, and worldwide. Another path must be taken, post haste.

Sadly, what we are now left with is an Ohio that is beyond frustrated, shocked, depressed, broken and maddened, literally. I and millions of us have witnessed this in our families, our neighborhoods, our churches, our schools and entire communities. All the while we have written emails, made phone calls, begged and pleaded to our representatives and senators asking them to act and stop this madness. The time is past due. The emergency is over. The DATA is there. The constitution exists. Restore the checks and balances. I cannot urge the committee any stronger for your support of SB22. If not now, when? If not with SB 22, then how? When and how will Ohioans get back their voices, have the fear mongering removed from our lives, and begin to live again?

Thank you for accepting my testimony in this matter.

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