

Chairman Roegner, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the State and Local Government Committee, thank you for accepting my testimony as a proponent of SB22. My witness information form is attached to this email.

I'll start by saying I'm 81 years old. This year has been a trying time for all of us. I have not seen my children and grandchildren for almost a year. I have "obeyed" Governor Dewine's mandate for staying home because of COVID at my age. I have "obeyed" Governor Dewine's mandate for wearing masks. What do I have to show for all my obeying? I am alive but living an empty life without my family. Even though my husband and I are living in our own home, there are not many differences between life at home and life in a nursing home for people our age. It's time to allow people really live and not just survive.

I have watched my grandson miss out on his education because of Governor Dewine's excessive lockdowns. My grandson has dwarfism, which has always put him at a disadvantage socially. He looked forward to college, where he would be exposed to more social circles and opportunities for respect through his classes. He joined a fraternity to increase the opportunities even more. He spent the better part of his sophomore year at home doing online classes through Bowling Green State University. During the fall semester, although he was back on campus, he was mostly isolated to his dorm, with weird socialization rules that mostly confined him to a small group of people. The college constantly warned of the dangers and harsh punishment for unapproved socializing, something he craves the most. Unfortunately, like many high school and college students, his grades suffered from all the rules that are contrary to human existence.

It's time we pass SB22 so that the representatives we elected will be able to speak for the people. Some of the representatives favor continuing to restrict people due to fear. We do have some brave representatives that understand that all lives matter, not just Covid affected lives. For some reason Governor DeWine has chosen to support fear instead of the Ohio Constitution. We don't want this division that is being stoked by the Governor's fear mongering. We need to open the state and restore normal life.

Please restore some hope in Ohioans hearts and allow our legislature to speak. I want to see my family. I don't want to waste anymore years, especially when there is no longer a reason to do this. Scientists have learned enough about this disease to end the orders.

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