

H.B. 618 Testimony

11/16/2020

Alicia Sheffield

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Dear Honorable Judge:

My name is Alicia and I am a full-time working mother of two kids. I work at OSU Wexner Medical Center in Laboratory Compliance, and have been a Medical Technologist for 14 years.

Since the start of Covid-19, my family and I have had the upmost respect for anyone in leadership over our state. Respect to make the decisions that they had to during that time, respect that they wanted to protect the people and respect of the virus itself. However, with all of the data and research that we now have, I am not alone with saying that there is a tremendous overreach of authority with the Governor and the Department of Health. This overreach is affecting people on a very deep level and is preventing families from being able to function with the previous, normal liberties that we once had. My husband, 9-year-old daughter, 6-year-old son and I visited a local Hobby Lobby recently. We were not wearing masks. We were confronted at the entrance of the store about masks, and I respectfully and politely told her that we do not wear masks. We proceeded to shop, being respectful of other patrons (keeping distance), and a couple minutes later someone came over on the loud speaker saying, "This is a reminder that all customers need to wear masks so that we can keep our jobs". When we got to the cashier, she called some sort of code on the phone. When another associate came to her, she acted nervous and called the code she had just made as some sort of accident. If it were not for my daughter being so excited at the checkout to make Christmas crafts and sparking a conversation with the cashier, that same cashier would have denied us our purchase.

When businesses are in fear of losing their jobs and denying patrons, we know there is a problem with the Governor /Department of Health's authority. When Ohioans are being manipulated emotionally and their personal activities micromanaged by the Governor, there is a problem with overreach.

I represent a large group of Ohioans that are ready to regain our freedoms and liberties. We are tired, not from Covid-19, but from having to fight for the freedoms and liberties that we are guaranteed by our Constitution.

Sincerely,

Alicia Sheffield