

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairman Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the State and Local Government Committee: Thank you for allowing me sponsor testimony for HB 618.

My name is Damon Appel, and I was Born in Ohio in 1968. In my 52 years living here I never dreamed to see a day in America, let alone Ohio, wherein a Governor and his Executive associates would wield absolute power over the populace. Even more disheartening is that this practice of issuing orders of fiat would continue not just for weeks, but months without an end in sight, and based upon the most imaginative use of an arcane old section of the Ohio Revised Code.

But those of you assembled here know that these Health Orders are not actually law; it's just that by 'group think', we've come to treat them as such. There IS a law; a Constitution of this Nation, guaranteeing a Republican form of government. A Constitution of this State, echoing the principles enshrined in the Federal Constitutions and the Bills of Rights in each.

There's been a lot of talk about 'dying' these days. Do we REALLY remember those today who bled and died on battlefields near or far, that their descendants (those of us gathered here today) might live in freedom? --That we might be the light to the world of the works, power and benevolence of our God and Savior in Heaven. That when darkness and evil approaches us about, or tries to consume us from within, that we will stare it down and send it back boldly with a message, "Wrong address!"

You sit here with great power in your hands; it is the power given to you by many...many of We the People. We today demand that you take it back from this Governor, who has concentrated the power of all the branches of Ohio State government into his Administration, as if this were some third world banana republic.

And not just because it is your job to do this; not just because this is what the Constitutions and Bills of Rights you swore to uphold clearly require you to do.

It's because people ARE dying. They're dying inside.

Confused and oppressed, they are forgetting the very things this Nation was built to stand for. Depressed and forlorn, some even take their lives; bereft of hope, having lost their lives' work, broken their families...all at the hands of this Governor and his despotic Administration.

I am fortunate, and I am blessed. Oh, I did lose a significant relationship in this mess.

We weren't getting along well as it was; but the 'lockdown' certainly didn't help.

But I am fortunate to be one of those employed in a so-called "essential" industry where working at home is little different from working in-person.

I'll wear a mask when I desire to visit the store or the restaurant, so as not to cause a fuss. But I don't have to wear it all day, like they do.

--A symbol of compliance that the verdict of 'science' is clearly not settled upon, as to its actual physical effectiveness.

Governor DeWine threatens to close these struggling restaurants, bars and other miscellaneous businesses as he sees fit, yet again.

I'm here FOR THEM; those who can't be here. I speak here before you to defend their right to survive.

And I am here for all those I love, as well as myself, to restore the REAL America in every portion of this State, that we might again live free, as the Lord would desire us to do.

The "Need Ohio Working (NOW) Act" is a most essential use of the time and effort of our State government, and I urge you to act without haste to move this forward.

I would further urge you to remove the Governor from his position, as a warning against anyone else ever overreaching their elected power in such manner.

But removing the facade by which his Administration claims this unjust power is certainly a sufficient and necessary start.

Thank you very much.