

Chairman Wiggam, Vice-Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and Members of the House State and Local Government Committee:

Thank you so much for this opportunity to provide written testimony regarding HB 618. I urge all of you to support this piece of legislation that reigns in the Ohio Department of Health Director's apparent authority and implements checks and balances for any ODH order issued by requiring approval from Ohio's General Assembly. Our State Representatives and Senators are the chosen voice of Ohioans.

As a candidate for Sheriff of Champaign County in the March 17, 2020 primary election I was personally effected by the shutdown of the election. I understood when I went into the campaign that there was a real possibility that I could lose however I believed it to be a worthwhile opportunity and experience to run. As any candidate my campaign was built around a solid date for the election that I believed would never change. This reality all came crashing down on March 16, 2020 when Governor Dewine went beyond his authority doing a runaround of the General Assembly and canceled the election. This action ruined all campaign plans causing me to spend thousands more dollars out of my own pocket to continue the campaign.

Furthermore, as an active member of the Champaign County community I have spoken to many community members and business owners that have been severely financially impacted by the ODH orders. Currently these businesses are now tasked to enforce ODH orders or be shutdown. This puts businesses even further between a rock and a hard place. It is not tenable for businesses to confront people without a mask on as the orders themselves contain so many exemptions. Lastly, as a Police Officer I have anecdotally an increase of suicide and drug overdoses that have far exceeded the 3 deaths that Champaign County has seen from the Coronavirus. From this prospective I believe that the ODH has fashioned a cure that is worse than the disease itself. I believe that it is a great thing that the General Assembly takes back it's roll as a check and balance on the Executive Branch of this Great State of Ohio.

Sincerely,

David C. Patrick, II