

HB618 Proponent Testimony

Elizabeth Talbot

House State and Local Government Committee

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony regarding HB618. I am a **proponent of HB618** because I strongly believe that the governor of Ohio and the unelected director of the Ohio Department of Health should not have unilateral and unchecked authority over the people of Ohio. Ohioans' possess the unalienable **right to decide for themselves** if they want to work, vote, receive an in-person education, visit loved ones in nursing homes, hospitals, and group homes, meet in groups of more than 10, shop in-person, and wear a face mask. The Ohio Revised Code must be revised in order to prevent this gross overreach of power from ever happening again.

Not only am I perfectly capable of identifying and mitigating possible risks pertaining to my own health and safety, I have the right to do so. My doctor does not have the right to make decisions for my health, though he can provide advice. My governor does not have the right to make decisions about my health, though he, too, can provide advice. The governor has greatly overstepped his authority in mandating his advice. Our founding fathers knew it was important to have checks and balances in our government, which is why the United States of America is a constitutional republic, which is something our governor through the ODH orders has ignored. HB618 is an important check and balance of the power of the governor and the health director and insures that our freedoms, as well as the freedom of future generations, remain intact

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. I urge you to uphold your oath to defend the Constitution, which states that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of freedom", and in doing so, **vote YES on HB618.**

Elizabeth Talbot

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