

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

I have witnessed the devastation all around me since March as Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health have continued to issue decrees without any discussion let alone approval from the General Assembly. My local businesses have been devastated, and the only local gluten-free chef has been forced out of business due to his supply chain being interrupted and due to ongoing harassment from the local health department who is led by an emboldened health commissioner. The people I care about are severely stressed and worried for the future. The psychological abuse of a terroristic one-man rule has taken its toll on my loved ones and my community.

Unless the governor and the Ohio Department of Health are reigned in, I see the imminent destruction of Ohio's economy. Our people are resilient, but they need their representatives to represent us well! We are counting on you all, trusting that you love the communities you serve. Please support HB 618 and help us all move forward into a brighter future for Ohio instead of the "dark winter" DeWine speaks of and seems determined to move us into. We are fully capable of making our own health decisions after careful examination of all available evidence, including the evidence DeWine has refused to produce to justify keeping us in a perpetual state of emergency.

Thank you for your service and attention.

Jeanine Mardis  
Sandusky, Ohio