

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony regarding HB 618. I am a mother, a grandmother, and concerned citizen of Ohio. I am also retired US Air Force and a licensed Physical Therapist Assistant as well as a certified Lymphedema Therapist.

I have concerns about the lack of checks and balances in regards to the handling of the Covid 19 pandemic. We have unelected officials who have been given total power over the citizens of Ohio affecting them financially as well as their health, mentally and physically. Our elections and our Constitutional rights have been violated by mandates pushed by unelected individuals and our Governor Mike DeWine.

In Ohio we have not lost a child to Covid 19. But we have lost many to suicide and drug overdose! The long term ramifications will be felt for decades. And it's not just our children. I have personally seen the mental health impact. A few months ago a friend, who is a mother of three and well educated, was experiencing suicidal ideations. She reached out to me and I was able to get to her before she took action. I took her to the ER at Kettering Hospital. I spent 14 hours there with her. I was instructed by the staff to especially watch to make sure that she didn't try to strangle herself with the telemetry wires because she had attempted that in the past. Eventually, she was admitted to the behavioral unit.

Our kids are suffering. Our adults are suffering. Our elderly are suffering. We need checks and balances and our voices heard! All those years I spent defending my country and our freedoms, I never thought I'd see our freedoms being stripped away in my own state.

Please support HB 618.

Thank you,
Kitty K Zeunen