

## HB618 Proponent Testimony

Kyonna Shipley

State and Local Government Committee

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

I would like to start by saying thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts on HB618. I will keep this short and to the point.

1) I am a proponent of SB618 because I believe that two individuals (one unelected) should not have this much power over the economic and psychosocial well-being of an entire state, and the Ohio Revised Code must be revised in order to prevent this situation from happening again. From the beginning, the state's response to the COVID-19 "pandemic", administered by just two individuals, has not matched the true data of the virus.

2) The response has continued to not match the increasing body of science on COVID-19. It was clear early on that the populations at greatest risk for severe disease were the elderly and individuals with pre-existing conditions. Yet, policies were made to primarily restrict young children and healthy individuals. For example, children K-12 are required to wear masks in school, even though the literature shows that children rarely get infection let alone spread it, and the literature also shows that masks are ineffective and possibly harmful.

3) Dewine continues to make decisions not driven by data.

4) When decisions affecting the economy and wellbeing of an entire state are being made, they cannot be made by only a single unelected individual or that individual in collaboration with the governor. That is not how a constitutional republic form of government is set up. More importantly, it cannot be reasonably expected that a public health official can also have the expertise to consider economic and other implications.

5) Citizens of Ohio expect legislators to have our backs and stand up in times when Tyranny seems to be on the cusp of running rampant and destroying our economy and livelihood.

We have had enough and will no longer tolerate this.

Thank you for your time,  
Kyonna Shipley