

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairman Stephens and Ranking Member Kelly, thank you for allowing me to give Proponent Testimony for House Bill 618.

On June 2, 2020 I testified in favor of House Bill 624 in front of this very committee because I wanted this body to understand the truth vs fear of the situation we found ourselves in. Unfortunately, we are still in that situation and our children are still suffering. My son still has yet to see his speech therapist's face while trying to learn to speak correctly because the therapist is forced to wear a mask.

However, today I am here to ask you to vote yes for House Bill 618 to reign in the powers that the executive branch currently exercises. We have three EQUAL branches of government in Ohio. What that is *supposed* to mean is that one person cannot rule over 11.5 million Ohioans. We live in a Representative Democracy. That means we elect Representatives that are *supposed* to protect our God-Given Rights. Beyond the argument of whether masks work or they don't, our entire way of life is under fire.

Amy Acton, Director of Ohio Department of Health said on April 30th of this year:

“Eventually, in our culture, perhaps wearing masks will be more like something like smoking that we've come to say is not OK. You can smoke, that's your choice. But I can't be a second-hand smoke receiver in a public place,” she said. “That may eventually be a culture change we get to.

“What I looked at is, it's a lot like other public health things that when you first start out, it's really about behavior change and culture change,” she said. “When I've traveled globally ... (wearing masks) is the norm. You will be seen as impolite to be coughing and hacking on people. But we have to get there together as a culture. This is a very big behavioral change for us.”

I did not vote for the executive branch to change my culture. I did not vote for Mike DeWine so that he can turn citizens against each other if they choose differently than his unilateral edicts.

I have been verbally assaulted more in the past three weeks by people who also fight against “bullying” than I ever have in my entire life. The Governor is now purposely creating a divide and giving people a free pass to scream at others in public. Why is this allowed to continue?!

I was brought up to think for myself and be responsible for my own health. As you can see by these quotes from our Governor, this is not temporary. He has absolutely no intention of ending the state of emergency as evidenced by his speech last week when he declared it was being extended.

And that brings us to where we are right now. We have one man who hasn't lost a dime of income telling others who are struggling with their finances that they aren't allowed

to enter a grocery store without being personally accosted by a minimum wage worker. A man who thinks a “virus” is alive and looking for “victims.” A man who no doubt has a vested financial interest in making sure that my children feel uncomfortable in public simply for smiling at others.

One man who hasn't been listening to his constituents, or the legislature or the Judicial Branch since March. He was upset when people showed up at Dr. Acton's house because she was writing orders that shutdown businesses. And here we are again, threatening to shut down businesses or there's talk of 10pm to 6am curfew?? What does he think will happen?

In 1773, Bostonians sat at a port for 30 straight days so that they couldn't unload the tea and they wanted it sent back to London. They ONLY threw the tea in the harbor as a last resort so that the tea was not unloaded. Why are we absolutely refusing to learn anything from history?

Where is our legislature? Where is the balance of powers? In what Republic do we bend the knee to the will of one man? The definition of a Republic is “a political order whose head of state is not a monarch.”

For a duly elected Governor to demand that you bend to his will or your business will be shut down isn't a Republic, it's a Monarchy. We fought the Revolutionary War during a Smallpox epidemic that still currently has a reported 30% mortality rate to get away from this exact situation.

I'm sick and tired of the Governor of Ohio encouraging citizens to accost each other at a Walmart. I did not sign a “social contract” to undertake the health of everyone in the State. If that was the case, maybe the Governor should mandate eating vegetables daily, not selling soda anymore or 30 minutes of exercise during your lunch break. But no, he just wants you to cover your face or be vilified by his “be kind” army.

His mandates and behavior are unacceptable and I encourage a yes vote on HB 618, for the sake of all Ohioans today and when the vaccine becomes the new gatekeeper to be able to live life.

Thank you,

Lindsey Evans
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