

H.B. 618

Written Proponent Testimony HB618

Hello Chairman, Vice-Chair, ranking member and honorable members of the committee. My name is Michele Miller and I am providing testimony as a concerned citizen on HB618. It is imperative that our legislature is involved with any decision making that involves one branch of our state government, the Director of Health and/or our Ohio Department of Health. We have seen the crippling effects that have befallen our state due to just a handful of people determining how the state should address a pandemic. Most of these individuals are not even elected officials. We need checks and balances within our government, so it is imperative that our general assembly is involved in such heavy matters when it comes to quarantines and isolation. The last eight months of just a handful of people making decisions for our state with no legislative input has affected many of my friends and my family. The stress and anxiety have been hard on myself as well as my eight-year-old son. Not only do we need legislative input into such policies of health but as well as the unforeseen consequences that such policies can affect. These can include mental health, drug abuse, suicide, the loss of small business and countless others. When it comes to our state elections, unless we are under enemy attack within the state, nothing should impede a fair and free election. This includes during a pandemic. No declaration should postpone or cancel an election within our state.

I would also like to point out that I do not like the language where the local health district can issue orders and regulations during the time of a pandemic or infectious disease outbreak. Again, we need to have representation from our elected officials to provide restraint in matters that have no end date in sight, as we have seen in the last 8 months here in Ohio. No one entity should be making policy without citizen representation and input.

Sincerely,

Michele Miller