

Testimony of Michelle Cotterman, RN CNHP
Support HB 618
State and Local Government
November 17, 2020

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

Thank you for considering my verbal testimony in support of House Bill 618. My name is Michelle Cotterman. I am first and foremost a mother and a sovereign human being who lives in the state of Ohio. I am also a registered nurse and a certified natural health provider. Having these various experiences has afforded me the unique perspective from which I can observe through the lens of a medical professional, a natural health professional, a mother, and a lover of liberty.

It has been a shocking journey over the last several months which has brought to light a series of significant problems. Individuals are being led to believe the outcomes of their health are another's responsibility. Meanwhile these same individuals are engaging in lifestyle choices that put their own health at risk. A government that seems to have forgotten its only oath is to uphold and protect our God given constitutionally protected rights. A medical system completely ignorant to supporting and promoting health and wellness void of a pharmaceutical solution. The diverse nature and culture of our state requires greater levels of input when setting policies that affect over 11 million Ohioans. Better yet, how about a government that provides recommendations while also respecting and honoring the rights of Ohioans.

I am in support of HB 618 for the following reasons:

- 1) It requires the approval of the General Assembly before Ohio Department of Health (ODH) may supervise matters relating to the life and health of the people or declare and enforce quarantine and isolation. The Governor and the Director of ODH have ignored indirect outcomes of economic and social burden, including a skyrocketing epidemic of mental health issues and deaths resulting from lock down. HB 618 will bring more voices and expertise to the table when deciding on effective and balanced strategies to mitigate infectious disease pandemic that considers all aspects and consequences of state intervention.^{1 2}
- 2) It prohibits the Director of Health from taking action to control or suppress a contagious disease or pandemic condition until the Director has the approval of the General Assembly. The chosen experts have continuously ignored the robust scientific discussion when making decisions all Ohioans are expected to follow. For example, there has been no discussion about protecting the microbiome. The overuse of sanitizers

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6932a1.htm>

² <https://healthfreedomohio.org/News-Views/9046103>

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and toxic chemicals used to disinfect will have long lasting effects on the health of our children.^{3 4}

Ohioans are increasingly growing tired of a seemingly dictator style government that is tone-deaf to their concerns, cut out the legislative branch and ignored court rulings stating the administration's orders are unconstitutional.^{5 6} It is time for the legislature to dial in the powers that have allowed this overreach to occur in the first place. Please, vote yes on HB 618.

³ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32827705/>

⁴ <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.08.12.20173781v1>

⁵ <https://ohioconstitution.org/ohio-court-health-departments-cannot-suspend-licenses-over-masks/>

⁶ <https://ohioconstitution.org/another-ohio-court-slams-forced-closures-as-unconstitutional/>