

**November 16, 2020**

**Written (Proponent) Testimony in regards to HB 618 presented to the State and Local Government Committee of the Ohio House -133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly - Ravi Kulasekere PhD, ND, BCHHP**

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **supporting** HB 618. A bill to amend sections 161.09, 3701.13, 3701.14, 3707.04, 3707.05, 3707.26, 3709.20, and 3709.21 and to enact section 107.22 of the Revised Code to limit the authority of the Governor and the Department of Health to issue orders regarding contagious or infectious diseases, to prohibit any order from affecting the conduct of an election, to designate its provisions as the "Need Ohio Working (NOW) Act," and to declare an emergency.

My name is Ravi Kulasekere, a practicing board certified doctor of traditional naturopathy and a PhD medical physicist by training with over a dozen years working in the field of cancer care. I am writing to express my support to HB 618 as a concerned Ohio citizen, a caring parent, holistic health practitioner and a scientist. I have been carefully observing the many draconian COVID-19 policy decisions that were made by the Director of the ODH as well as the Governor of Ohio, based on bad models and the sole interpretation of selected data and science at their discretion. These two individuals did not seem to care what the evolving data or science or even the evidence presented from the field said, in making these decisions that affected the lives of millions of Ohioans adversely. Their sole intention was to limit the spread of a virus with failed policies, while people's loss of livelihood, loss of children's education, serious emotional, mental and physical trauma to both children and adults alike and every other adverse aspect that these policies made in the lives of Ohioans that were summarily ignored. More importantly our constitutional rights as free citizens of the state were trampled upon in the process as well. While we were facing the passage of an infectious disease through our State, such unilateral actions do not serve the public well. The voice of many, and especially that of those who have been elected to serve the public and uphold their constitutional rights and privileges, should be included in making such decisions and taking actions that affect the people physically and emotionally. It is also concerning that these actions also forced Ohioans to in many ways participate in a specific allopathic health care system which is not what the protections of the Ohio Constitution guarantees us. People are free to choose what healthcare system they want to participate in and many Ohioans are currently turning to holistic health for their own health and well-being. Therefore, these people also need a voice and should not be drowned out by the only mainstream system that they do not participate in for prevention and wellness. For almost 8 months now we have endured the failed policies of both the Governor and the many ODH directors of health who have changed during this time and it is time to change the course we have been on with a more accountable system with transparency, integrity, limited power and a voice for all. It is also imperative that no individual elected or unelected has the authority to abuse their powers as in the case of disrupting elections which is a fundamental constitutional

right granted to us. No infectious disease should make the constitutional freedoms null and void. No individual should also be able to determine whose business or livelihood is more essential than an other's and call for the closure of such entities putting people's physical and mental health at a higher risk than from the virus. It is therefore in the best interest of all Ohioans that powers of individuals to make such orders be limited and the approval of such be determined by the legislators who have been elected by the people to serve and uphold the constitution. I therefore urge you to vote YES on HB 618 and bring back integrity, legitimacy and transparency to the State of Ohio in handling the present situation as well as future ones.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Kulasekera", with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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