



GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT
AND REFORM
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 2/2/2021

Name: Doug GOLDEN

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Organization Representing: GOOD AS GOLD PROMOTIONS

Testifying on Bill Number: SB 22

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: _____

Doug Golden
Small Business Owner
Government Oversight & Reform Committee
Support - SB 22

Good Day Chairperson Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Minority Member Craig and honorable committee members.

My name is Doug Golden; I am a Husband, Father of 2 amazing young women and a small business owner of 27 years. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony today.

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the year anniversary when Governor DeWine stated the 2-week lockdown was necessary to flatten the curve. Over the past year or so I have witnessed our three-branch system of government become one of dictatorship fueled by fear-mongering and false information. The unilateral decision of continuing to keep Ohio closed has affected my family in ways that I thought were never possible. I believe in medical freedom, and shopping for food and necessities has become a tedious and exhausting task. I am no longer able to just pop in and out of a store for an item or 2. Instead, I need to prepare mentally and physically to defend my reasons why I do not wear a mask. It has become commonplace to have a person yell and berate me for not wearing a mask, and on some occasions being forced out of a store. There have been a few times when I have been approached by a police officer and asked to leave just because I am not wearing a mask. Never in a million years, in this United States, would I ever think a sewn piece of material could bring out the worst in people. But, I always have to remember as Governor DeWine says, "We are in this together". My truth is, no, we are not!

Small Business is one of the hardest-hit communities by the continued mandates. With many small businesses out of business, my small business of 27 years is also in trouble. My wife and I have put our hearts and souls into our business. There have been many sacrifices over the years. We never imagined; one day we would be on the verge of closing, due to a shutdown

mandate. Our business relies on events, corporate meetings, camps, social gatherings, and school athletics, to name a few. In 2020 our business revenue was down over 55%, and we anticipate another decrease in sales for 2021, provided we stay in business. I am afraid; we too may be another statistic of Covid, another business, closed due to no business. So, where do I go from here? At this point in my life, I never expected to have to start over and be at risk of losing everything, including my home. I never expected to have lost my 20-year-old daughter to a vaccine injury and my surviving daughter working at home all alone every day. She does not shop or go out socially because she does not want to face the challenges of not wearing a mask. The system is broken, and this bill is a step in the right direction. This bill will, protect the citizens of Ohio from further tyrannical decisions; it brings back the checks and balances necessary in our three-branch system of government. I am a supporter of this bill; I encourage each of you to speak with your colleagues in caucus and publicly support SB22. Should the Governor veto this bill, please continue your support for a veto override vote. Maybe, if this bill becomes law quickly, my business will not become another Covid statistic. It is time to re-open Ohio. Thank you for your time, and I am willing to answer any questions.

Doug Golden

Small Business Owner

Plain City, Ohio

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