



Cuyahoga County  
**Together We Thrive**

**Armond Budish**  
Cuyahoga County Executive

Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee  
Senate Bill 22  
Opponent Testimony  
Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit opponent testimony on Senate Bill 22.

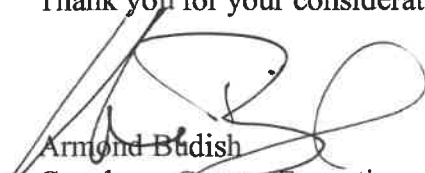
No area of the state – no county in Ohio – remains immune from the economic and public health toll that COVID-19 has wrought upon us. Indeed, this deadly virus remains a threat to the lives of our families and loved ones.

As Cuyahoga County Executive, my administration has worked hard locally to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on our residents, businesses, and schools, among others. Without working in coordination with the statewide response of the governor and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), our approach to tackling the coronavirus would have been – and still could be – even more challenging.

Now is not the time for such legislation as it could hamper the ability of the governor and ODH to react quickly on the statewide level to what only can be described as an unpredictable and life-threatening virus.

Moreover, I'm concerned about the legislation's long-term implications for Ohio if or when we confront another public health or emergency crisis. As we have learned when facing this pandemic, conditions often are fluid, requiring a nimble response. Unfortunately, this legislation would tie the hands of the governor and ODH when they need it most.

I respectfully request the committee to vote “no” on Senate Bill 22.  
Thank you for your consideration.



Armond Budish  
Cuyahoga County Executive