

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and the Honored Members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee:

My name is Jennie Spicer and I am writing to express my support of SB22.

The citizens of Ohio deserve a voice and a system to maintain balance in government decisions. Governor DeWine has continued this emergency status when we are no longer facing an emergency from Covid-19. Data is being manipulated to continue a false sense of crisis while spending hordes of taxpayer dollars on frivolities like advertising, contact tracing and teams sent out to report on noncompliance.

1. There is no available data proving that masking works. If you have access to it, I would love a copy. The media, the government, and Dr. Fauci continue to tell us that "masking is proven to work" but provides not one study proving this "fact". All pure data shows that "cases" went up AFTER we began masking. Cases and deaths have followed the same path as any other annual influenza season.

2. There is no available data proving that shut-downs or curfews work. There is no evidence that closing small businesses and enacting curfews are effective. In fact, pure data shows that those things had no effect at all on the course of this virus. On the contrary, while Governor DeWine imposed curfews on bars and restaurants, real data came out to prove that the virus was not transmitted in these establishments. Governor DeWine admitted this himself during several pressers, but continued the curfews for this group of small businesses. Not only did he state that we had to accept the curfews, he allowed waivers for large sporting events, catering to big business and corporations while destroying small, neighborhood bars. Either gathering past ten pm is dangerous or it's not.

3. There is no available data proving that small businesses are more dangerous than big box stores. The CDC issued guidelines for all businesses and every business I've been in is following them. (I am in Butler County). I am not the only one that wonders how masking, six feet distance, and sanitizing surfaces is safer in Walmart than a small business. I have heard many reports of the number of small businesses, neighborhood bars and family-owned businesses that are closed for good. The business I had is one of them. I have not seen any confirmed studies supporting these numbers and it is a shame that we don't investigate and report this information with the same vigor that we promote fear.

4. Fear. Fear-mongering. Panic. Twice per week Governor DeWine holds a 60-90 minute pressor that focuses solely on everything that is going wrong. At least once a month he tells us that "the next two weeks are critical". When you're finished with the pressor, you can drive to any business and see billboards along the way telling you how dangerous the world is. If you chose to enter any establishment, you are bombarded at every turn with signage about "staying safe". If you choose to enter an establishment, all patrons are now corralled through one door to enter and one to exit instead of allowing people to maintain a natural distance like we did before Covid. If you stay home and watch tv, you will be

inundated with Governor DeWine's tax-payer funded advertisements meant to pull at your heartstrings and reinforce fear. We are told repeatedly that the vaccine will be our saving grace but there is no real data to prove this. We are told it is "safe and effective" over and over, but "safe and effective" isn't a number. It isn't data. It isn't research. We are having it forced on us without any real discussion about the benefits and risks. The risks needs to be publicized as readily as the benefits.

5. Governor DeWine touts the virtues of the vaccine and gave us a schedule to receive it. It has been very clear, since this virus first appeared, that we needed to protect the elderly and most vulnerable. We have done the opposite. Now that we have the "miracle" vaccine (that still requires us to wear a mask and still allows us to get the virus) we have made it virtually impossible to distribute it to the elderly because they are not tech savvy. My mother is 69 and legally blind. The only reason she got to vote in the primary (that DeWine adulterated) was because I was able to go online and get the ballot for her. There is no way she could do this herself. There is no way she could sign up for the vaccine herself. The system he created is entirely too complicated and it doesn't need to be. If you can't navigate the internet, you can't get the shot. This is ridiculous.

6. More fear, bullying and anger. Due to the constant barrage of the Governor's stance on masking and distancing, the general public has designated itself the "mask police". If you don't wear a mask everywhere you go it is quite common to be accosted by employees or other shoppers. They will yell at you, bully you, terrify you. It doesn't matter if you have a medical exemption. They don't care. It is now unacceptable to be anywhere in public without a mask. He has made us see EACH OTHER as enemies in this war on Covid. It adds to the division that is already pulling our country apart.

7. The most important reason I support SB22 is our children. What the Governor has permitted is inexcusable. I am fortunate that my local school district returned to full in-person study at the first opportunity. While he creates "mandates" that close businesses and regulate our daily lives, he will not force teachers to go back to work. The unions are in control and that is unacceptable. Studies have shown that bars/restaurants and schools are the safest places where you are the least likely to contract Covid. Yet these are the buildings with the most restrictions. I honestly don't understand it. When will this be addressed? Our children are literally dying. They are committing suicide. They are severely depressed. They are overdosing on drugs. All of these numbers are readily available. But Governor DeWine chooses which numbers to focus on. Apparently Covid RELATED deaths are the only ones that count. My grandson just turned five and attends half-day preschool. The sight of him in a mask makes my head hurt. Even though DeWine stated that only children over the age of ten need to wear masks, all schools and businesses are requiring everyone to wear them - to be on the safe side. I am not even permitted to enter the school building. When I have to sign papers, I am permitted to meet with the appropriate personnel in the vestibule only. Wearing a mask, of course. There's no PTA. No birthday cupcakes. No playing together. Half of the "educational resources" were removed from the preschool classroom because it would be impossible for the children to share them and keep them sanitized. The only thing our children know is fear. Because masks cover every other emotion. In the classroom and in public. During the formative years, when we are trying to teach children to be good stewards and develop empathy, they don't know if the person next to them is laughing or crying. But they DO know that person is afraid. Governor DeWine makes sure that every person of every age lives in a constant state of

agitation. It is a combination of fear, anger and frustration of the lack of control over our own lives. I am an adult and I struggle with it. What is it doing to our children?

It is time for oversight. It's past time. We need fair, balanced, impartial, not driven by finances, checks and balances. Any great leader would welcome debate and a sharing of facts to best serve their constituents. The fact that he vetoed the last bill and strong-armed Obhoff into not bringing it to a vote scares me more than Covid. It should scare you too. No one person should have this much unchecked power.

I sincerely appreciate your efforts to hear both sides of this argument. Now, more than ever, it is important that both sides of this issue are discussed and addressed in a fair and unbiased forum.

Thank you.

Jennie L Spicer

50 Donna Ave

Hamilton OH 45013

513-394-9288