

**Office:**  
Vern Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 466-5786  
Rep31@OhioHouse.gov



**Committees:**  
Federalism  
Finance  
State and Local Government  
Sunset Review

# BRIGID KELLY

## State Representative

November 23, 2020

Governor Mike DeWine  
Vern Riffe Center  
77 S High St, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine,

I write to you today to urge you to veto Senate Bill 311. If enacted, this legislation would take away the ability of the State of Ohio to act nimbly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and will limit the ability of our public health officials to respond to not only this outbreak, but to any future outbreaks or bioterrorism events.

The number of rapidly escalating coronavirus cases, hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and ER visits across Ohio requires quick and decisive action in stopping the spread of this deadly disease. Stripping the State Health Director from the ability to take action during a public health crisis puts all Ohioans in danger. This will only lead to more deaths and will further destabilize our economy. As a State Representative, I want to get through this crisis and reopen our economy, but that can only happen if the health and safety of our citizens are part of those decisions. That means listening to health experts, implementing strategies to control the virus, protecting workers, and restoring consumer confidence. This bill will slow our response, cost more lives, and force more businesses into financial ruin.

In short, Senate Bill 311 is dangerous legislation. We will never be able to get a handle on this pandemic if we keep politicizing masks and urging noncompliance with the Ohio Department of Health's orders. Medical experts throughout this state oppose this bill, and it is critical that Ohio's executive offices and lawmakers listen to those voices.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this most important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brigid Kelly".

Rep. Brigid Kelly  
House District 31