



Representative C. Allison Russo
The Ohio House of Representatives

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

March 11, 2021

Dear Governor DeWine,

I write to you today to urge you to veto Senate Bill 22. If enacted, this legislation will endanger the health and safety of Ohioans by delaying critical, timely responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and future emergencies that may arise in Ohio.

This bill dismisses the dedicated public health professionals in this state who work to keep Ohio running efficiently and effectively. Senate Bill 22 gives the General Assembly the ability to rescind rules and orders issued by state agencies, state officeholders, and restricts local boards of health from responding in a manner they may deem appropriate. This legislation ignores the voices of medical and public health experts in favor of politicized, misleading claims about COVID-19. We can't base our public policy on false information when real lives are at stake. Our focus should be directed to responding to the health and economic crises by listening to health experts, implementing strategies to control the virus, protecting workers, and restoring consumer confidence.

A year after the first confirmed coronavirus case in Ohio, we are still navigating this global pandemic. Senate Bill 22 undermines our pandemic response and puts all Ohioans in danger. The advice and guidance from the medical community should lead us through this crisis. Scientific, factually-based evidence should lead us through this crisis. Under Senate Bill 22, misinformation would lead us further into crisis. I understand people are frustrated and fatigued with the ongoing pandemic. However, the answer to getting our economy back on track, kids back in school, and our social lives vibrant relies on our ability to quickly respond to variants and outbreaks.

Again, I urge you to stand for our communities, small businesses, health care professionals, and front-line workers and veto Senate Bill 22.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Allison Russo".

C. Allison Russo
State Representative
Ohio House District 24