



ACS Chapters | Ohio



Ohio Chapter

INCORPORATED IN OHIO

American Academy  
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Ohio Children's Hospital Association

Saving, protecting and enhancing children's lives

From: Ohio State Medical Association, Ohio Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics, Ohio Chapter - American College of Surgeons, Ohio Hospital Association, Ohio Children's Hospital Association, & Ohio Osteopathic Association

Da: March 22, 2021

Re: Senate Bill 22

The above organizations urge Governor Mike DeWine to veto Senate Bill 22, legislation that would interfere with process by which the governor and state health department issue statewide orders regarding the pandemic.

Our state is making meaningful progress daily as we proceed with the rollout of vaccinations, but the pandemic is not over yet. Vigilance and careful steps are key in the path to Ohio's pandemic recovery, and the medical community is seriously concerned about the implications SB 22 would have upon the health and safety of Ohioans.

Substantially changing the way Ohio is working to respond to the crisis as SB 22 dictates may cause confusion and additional problems, as well as negatively impact the effectiveness of actions taken to date to curb COVID-19 spread and limit loss of life. Throughout the pandemic, the state has utilized a deliberate process in collaboration with public health experts to guide any orders or restrictions put in place, and letting up now could seriously damage our positive momentum moving forward. The governor's administration and state health department must retain the ability to act quickly and proactively with life-saving, evidence-based measures in order to protect the public and our medical professionals continuing to care for patients on the front lines.

We thank Governor DeWine, our public health leaders, and medical professionals statewide for their dedication during these unprecedented times. On behalf of our health systems and the state's medical community, we encourage Ohioans to continue to follow guidance from state and local health departments and other experts as we move toward an end to the imminent threat COVID-19 poses to our communities.