



MARCH 22, 2021

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor, State of Ohio
77 South High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: VETO REQUEST OF SENATE BILL 22

The Honorable Gov. Mike DeWine:

On behalf of the Ohio Mayors Alliance, we are seeking a veto of Senate Bill 22 because we believe it will make it more difficult for locally-elected leaders to protect their communities in a public health emergency. It will also create further uncertainty between state and local leaders at a time in which a coordinated response strategy is critically important.

First, the bill places unnecessary and potentially dangerous restrictions on local public health orders, which undermines local control. This includes limiting local mandates, restricting local emergency orders, and curtailing various quarantine and isolation orders. If, because of these limitations, local officials are not able to act quickly enough to contain a unique, local public health threat, it could have very serious health and economic consequences for a local community.

Second, the bill limits the statewide public emergency to just 90 days. This is problematic because the statewide emergency impacts how local governments can plan and respond to a public health crisis. If the state emergency were to change every three months, this would make it incredibly difficult for local communities to plan, prepare, and effectively respond to a public health emergency.

We look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that state and local communities can effectively and responsibly respond to a public health crisis. In the meantime, however, we remain concerned about the provisions in this bill and the impacts they would have on local efforts to plan and respond to a public health emergency. It is for these reasons that we request a veto of Senate Bill 22.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keary McCarthy", is written over a horizontal line.

Keary McCarthy, Executive Director
Ohio Mayors Alliance