



Deborah A. Feldman
President and CEO
Executive Office

March 23, 2021

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor of the State of Ohio
77 S. High St., 30th Fl.
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor DeWine

On behalf of all of us at Dayton Children's Hospital, I am writing to express my concern over Senate Bill 22 and to ask you to veto this legislation, as it would interfere with the state health department's ability to issue statewide orders regarding the pandemic and other public health emergencies.

This pandemic has been so incredibly difficult for health care providers throughout the state, both in caring for those who were ill or at risk and in dealing with the impact of the disease on staff and their families. Yet today Ohio is seeing great progress in our fight against COVID-19, because of the actions and steps taken by public health officials. Dayton Children's stepped up early on at the request of the Ohio Department of Health, working in partnership with public health entities, to support the expansion of testing and has served as a state lab site processing over 260,000 tests to date. Our ability to meet the need for testing and navigate effectively was dependent upon the professionalism and expertise of the staff working in various public health roles at the local, regional, and state level.

The very nature of these outbreaks requires the ability and authority of health experts to take action and respond quickly in order to minimize the threat to public health and to save lives. Ohio must retain the ability to act in order to protect the public and to ensure that our front-line health care professionals are able to care for patients who need them. Changing the way Ohio's public health experts can respond to these types of unpredictable and often unknown challenges now will likely cause confusion and delays in actions, as well as negatively impact the ability to curb the spread of COVID and limit loss of life.

At Dayton Children's, we continue to work closely with our public health experts in the counties we serve. We work with them to deal with COVID-19 and address other infectious disease outbreaks. In our experience, these public health professionals are uniquely prepared to confront exactly this kind of challenge, and we must trust them to continue to lead our communities through it with a keen eye toward balancing safety and the potential economic costs.

Governor, thank you for your continued dedication during these unprecedented times. We urge you to continue to follow guidance from health experts as we move toward an end to COVID-19's to our communities.

Sincerely,

Deborah Feldman

cc. Vicki Giambrone, Government Relations