

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:

Kettering Health Network is a not-for-profit hospital network affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church comprised of nine hospitals, Kettering College, and over 120 outpatient facilities serving southwest Ohio. As a faith-based provider, we are deeply committed to the sacred calling of caring for the health of our community, and our caregivers have been on the front lines combating the COVID-19 pandemic from the very beginning.

We urge you to veto Senate Bill 22, legislation that would interfere with the process by which your office and the state health department issue statewide orders regarding COVID-19. Ohio 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 we are concerned about the implications SB 22 would have on the health and safety of Ohioans.

Substantially changing the way Ohio is working to respond to the crisis may cause confusion and could negatively impact the effectiveness of actions taken to curb the spread of COVID-19 and limit any 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 the positive momentum we have gained.

We thank you, our public health leaders, and medical professionals statewide for their dedication during these unprecedented times. We will continue to encourage Ohioans 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.

Sincerely,



Fred Manchur, CEO  
Kettering Health Network