

## BON SECOURS MERCY HEALTH

The Honorable Mike DeWine  
Governor of Ohio  
77 South High Street, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

March 23, 2021

Dear Governor DeWine:

On behalf of Bon Secours Mercy Health, the state's largest health system with 21 hospitals serving communities across Ohio, I am writing regarding Senate Bill 22. From the inception of the pandemic to today's vaccination efforts, we at BSMH have lived out our Mission to bring good help to those in need. This has not come without many personal challenges and sacrifices among the physicians, nurses and support teams that have served on the frontlines over the past year. We know that steps taken early in the pandemic helped minimize COVID-19's impact on our state, helping safeguard our most vulnerable residents and protecting limited medical resources.

We value the partnership we have had with state and local leaders during this challenging time and recognize the important role you play. Our state is making tremendous progress, but there is still much to be done as we work to ensure the health and safety of Ohioans now and into the future. Thoughtful steps must be taken to ensure a full recovery from this pandemic.

We will continue to partner with you and state and local health departments in these trying times. Whether we're focused on COVID-19 or a future threat, we are all united in our commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of all Ohioans. For that reason, my colleagues and I concur that Senate Bill 22 would undermine our ability to provide the care residents of Ohio require and deserve. Public health officials need every tool available to them to limit the spread of life-threatening diseases, so that frontline caregivers and health systems can focus on those who most need our care and resources.

I believe we must remain committed to the process now in place, ensuring our ability to remain nimble as we respond to this once-in-a-lifetime health crisis and in anticipation of future health threats.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and last name "Smith" clearly distinguishable.

Brian Smith  
Chief Operating Officer  
Bon Secours Mercy Health