

March 23, 2021

Governor Mike DeWine  
Riffe Center, 30th Floor  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine,

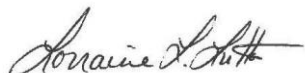
On behalf of our communities and patients, Mount Carmel Health System sincerely appreciates the support Ohio's elected leaders, including the DeWine Administration and the Ohio General Assembly, have provided to hospitals and providers who are confronting the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Mount Carmel has treated more than 3,000 COVID-19 inpatients and 5,000 COVID-19 patients in our emergency departments. As we continue to respond to COVID-19, we are working to end this pandemic by vaccinating our communities. To date, Mount Carmel has administered more than 35,000 doses of vaccine through clinics at all our hospitals. This includes a growing mass vaccination site at Mount Carmel East and additional efforts we are undertaking to bring the vaccine into underserved communities and work towards a more equitable distribution. This vaccination will be the greatest public health feat of our lifetime and will only be successful if we continue to collaborate at the federal, state and local levels on ending this pandemic.

However, the pandemic is not over, and I write to you today with grave concern regarding Senate Bill 22, legislation that would interfere with the process by which the governor and state health department issue statewide orders regarding the pandemic. SB 22 provides an unnecessary obstacle in our ability to work to move past this pandemic and will negatively impact the effectiveness of actions taken to date to curb COVID-19 spread and limit loss of life.

We appreciate the deliberate process the state has used in working with public health experts on the actions taken to keep Ohioans safe throughout the pandemic. We strongly believe that 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. Therefore, we are urging you to veto SB 22.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Lutton  
President & CEO  
Mount Carmel Health System