OhioHealth

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March 23, 2021

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

Dear Governor DeWine,

OhioHealth is a 12-hospital healthcare system that has served the central Ohio community since 1891. We are a family of 35,000 associates, physicians and volunteers with over 250 ambulatory sites, hospice, home-health, medical equipment and other health services spanning a 47-county area throughout Ohio.

I am writing to ask that you veto Senate Bill 22, legislation that would interfere with the process by which you and future governors and the state health department issue statewide orders regarding the pandemic.

Ohio has made incredible progress 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. As we work to protect our frontline clinicians and associates and to vaccinate our patients, we are concerned about the implications SB 22 would have upon the health and safety of Ohioans.

We are seeing the positive impact of the actions taken to date to curb the COVID-19 spread and limit loss of life. This is not the right time to change how Ohio responds to a crisis, as SB 22 dictates. 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.

I thank you, our public health leaders, and medical professionals statewide for their dedication during these unprecedented times. On behalf of OhioHealth, I encourage Ohioans to continue 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,

Stephen E. Markovich, MD
President and CEO