

March 23, 2021

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

Dear Governor DeWine,

As some of Ohio's largest employers and health care providers, caregivers from the three Ohio pandemic response zones serve on the front lines of public health emergencies.

In a hospital setting, outcomes are dependent on immediate action that quickly addresses threats so they can be mitigated and resolved. When the threat is posed to a community, that same responsiveness is needed.

Senate Bill 22 likely would have negative outcomes on the health and safety of all Ohioans. As Zone leads for the state's pandemic response, Cleveland Clinic, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and UC Health have a front line view of the need to rapidly coordinate and align the Ohio regions with consistent protocols to help save lives. We believe the same archetype holds true at a statewide level.

Your administration and state health department must retain the ability to act quickly, widely 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.

Even with the vaccine rollout underway in Ohio, the current pandemic is not over. Implementation of SB 22 could substantially change the way the state responds to the current pandemic, risking confusion among businesses, sending mixed messages to the population of our state, and potentially negatively impacting the effectiveness of actions taken to reduce spread and limit loss of life.

For these reasons, we appreciate your veto of SB 22.

In collaboration with public health, medical and content experts from a variety of industries, your administration has executed a deliberate process to safely modify and rollback restrictions as quickly and safely as possible as new science has emerged on how to control transmission and the pace of the pandemic has slowed. We believe this process will continue to serve Ohioans well now and during future public health emergencies.

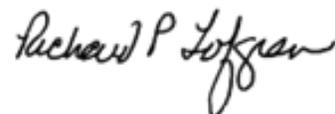
Sincerely,



Robert Wyllie, MD  
Chief of Medical Operations  
Cleveland Clinic



Andrew M. Thomas, MD, MBA  
Chief Clinical Officer  
The Ohio State University  
Wexner Medical Center



Richard P Lofgren, MD  
President and CEO  
UC Health