



March 23, 2021

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

Dear Governor DeWine:

Akron Children's Hospital is one of many organizations who offer support for the veto of Senate Bill 22, legislation that would amend and limit the process by which the governor of Ohio and the state health department issue statewide public health orders. As you know, our state is making meaningful progress as we proceed with the rollout of vaccinations, but the pandemic is still among us. Akron Children's is one of many hospitals who have worked diligently with our federal, state and local public health partners over the past year in our fight against COVID-19. Vigilance and careful steps are key in the path to Ohio's pandemic recovery, and the medical community is wary of the implications SB 22 would have upon the health and safety of Ohioans.

We encourage your veto because we have great concerns that substantially changing the way Ohio is working to respond to the crisis, as SB 22 dictates, may cause confusion and additional problems, as well as negatively impact the effectiveness of actions taken to curb COVID-19 spread and limit loss of life. Throughout the pandemic, the state has utilized a deliberate process in collaboration with public health experts to guide public health orders or restrictions, and letting up now could seriously damage our positive momentum.

We are very appreciative of your leadership during these unprecedented times. Additionally, we applaud our public health workers, medical professionals, and those elected to serve in the Ohio House and Ohio Senate, for their dedicated service and commitment to halting the pandemic.

On behalf of our organization, we encourage you to continue to demonstrate the leadership you have shown over this last year, and veto SB 22. Above all else, this veto will prevent us from impeding the ability of Ohio's Governor and Department of Health to act quickly and proactively with life-saving, evidence-based measures designed to protect the public and our dedicated medical professionals as we all move closer to eliminating the threat COVID-19 poses to our communities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grace Wakulchik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Grace Wakulchik  
President and CEO