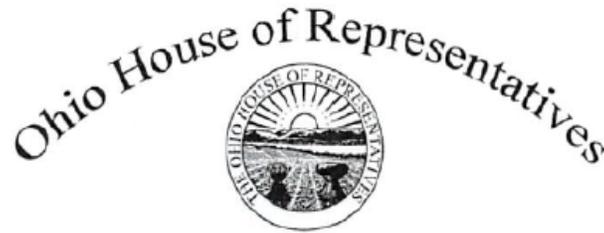


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Mike DeWine
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April 16, 2020

**A Call to Open the Ohio Economy to Governor DeWine
by Representative Nino Vitale**

Governor DeWine, I am asking for you to rescind all orders that you and Director Acton have put on the Ohio economy. Ohio must now open and get back to normal and follow the CDC guidelines, as Pennsylvania has now done. No government can stop death, no matter how hard we try. Life comes with some level of risk and it should be our choice to determine how we assess that risk as free citizens.

- Our medical professionals have been mitigating disease spread ever since they became medical professionals. Does government know better than these trained professionals? Director Acton is denying Ohioans critical health care by her order to block 'elective' surgeries which often are necessary and become urgent quickly.
- 10% of Ohio's work force is involved in some way, in the restaurant industry. We have trusted them for decades to control E. Coli, Listeria, Botulism and other diseases. I trust them to handle COVID-19.
- The other industry sectors can follow CDC guidelines of social distancing, washing of hands, etc.

We have not been living in quarantine. Quarantine is when someone is sick, and we isolate them. However, 99% of Ohio is not sick and we are generally healthy. This means we are living under house arrest. The curve is not only flat, as you stated was your goal, the curve is plummeting down. The 100,000 cases that Dr. Acton predicted never materialized and the models of death were severely overstated. What is not overstated is the untold economic and now mental health misery Ohio is experiencing, which could lead to civil unrest. Furthermore, waiting for a mandatory vaccination is unacceptable and is reminiscent of communist China, not the United States of America. Where there is risk, there must be personal choice. And if people are concerned and want to stay home, we respect their freedom to choose that option.

As an Ohioan wrote to me yesterday said "Ohio must open back up!!! Are people gonna die, yes, whether we open back up or not. I'm 70 years old and I want my freedom back. You cannot control the circle of life. Use the commonsense God gave you." I would echo those comments by saying life is about human flourishing, not cowering in our homes.

I read the story this week of the Doolittle Raiders and how they chose to go on a one-way mission to bomb Tokyo for the protection of our freedoms, knowing they did not have enough fuel to return to their aircraft carrier. I'm glad the men and women of World War II, "The Greatest Generation" did not cower in fear in their homes. Government should be about the business of the radical protection of freedom and liberty, not the elimination of death, which cannot be achieved no matter what strategies we put in place. The beginning of life is the start of death. It's time to follow the CDC guidelines and open Ohio for business and get Ohio flourishing again. Time is of the essence.

State Representative Nino Vitale

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nino Vitale", with a stylized flourish at the end.