



State Representative Kent Smith
House District 08

October 14th, 2020

Speaker Bob Cupp
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Speaker Cupp,

On October 9th, Ohio broke its daily record with 1,840 new Coronavirus cases. As I am sure you are aware, more than 5,000 Ohioans have died due from COVID-19.

While we are all weary of COVID restrictions, we must maintain and, where possible, increase our vigilance to defeat the disease.

On September 3rd, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington's School of Medicine updated its COVID projections as Fall turns into Winter. Its projections were shocking including the possibility of a "Deadly December estimated with nearly 30,000 deaths each day as winter returns to the Northern Hemisphere."

As stated by the IHME, the worst-case American scenario for cumulative deaths as of January 1, 2021, is 620,029 (range of 463,361-874,649).

But if mask usage is near-universal and governments do not loosen social distancing requirements, the estimated death toll could be cut in half.

As projected by the IHME, the best-case scenario American death total is 288,381 (range of 257,286-327,775). (Source: <http://www.healthdata.org/news-release/first-covid-19-global-forecast-ihme-projects-three-quarters-million-lives-could-be>).

As of mid-October, about 3.6 million COVID tests have been conducted in Ohio. At the current rate of 40,000 tests a day, it will take another six months for the rest of the Ohio population to be given one COVID test. Since testing has not been optimized, 11.7 million Ohioans must continue to assume we are all asymptomatic carriers of COVID. That includes Ohio's elected leaders. Therefore, we all must wear a mask and maintain social distance whenever we can. Mr. Speaker, both must be done in the Statehouse.

I believe state leaders must act to protect Ohioans - and that example needs to start inside the Ohio Statehouse. To that end, Sir, I am requesting that you mandate masks at all future Ohio House Committee

meetings and Floor Voting Sessions for Representatives, staff, and visitors. The work of the people need not become a super spreader event during a global pandemic without a treatment or cure. To continue to ignore the COVID threat on Capitol Square (and in Ohio) is reckless, irresponsible, cowardly and ignorant.

I am happy to engage in a constructive dialog with you on this topic. I hope you and your bride are well.

Sincerely,



Kent Smith
8th House District

Thank you
Mr. Speaker

