

41ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT
JOE PITTMAN

SENATE BOX 203041
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3041
717-787-8724

618 PHILADELPHIA STREET
INDIANA, PA 15701
724-357-0151
FAX: 724-357-0148

109 SOUTH JEFFERSON STREET
KITTANNING, PA 16201
724-543-3026
FAX: 724-548-4856

2400 LEECHBURG ROAD, SUITE 102
NEW KENSINGTON, PA 15068
724-216-6165

Majority Leader



Senate of Pennsylvania

September 21, 2026



Delivered via email to:

RA-DHCHAPTR27PROPREG@pa.gov

irrc@irrc.state.pa.us

Re: Public Comment in Opposition to Department of Health Proposed Regulation #10-242

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Executive Branch disregarded input from residents and the General Assembly at every turn. Senate Republicans fought to stop the unlawful overreach led by then Democratic Governor Tom Wolf over his COVID-19 mitigation orders through a dual approach of advancement of legislation and through legal challenges in the courts. In fact, because of legislation we spearheaded, voters were able to make their voices heard at the ballot box and voted to ultimately approve a Constitutional amendment curtailing a governor's emergency powers and allowing the people of Pennsylvania to rebuild their lives.

It is astonishing the Shapiro Administration is now doubling down on COVID-era policies through 502 pages of proposed regulations, many of which previously created havoc for parents, children, seniors, employers and employees. We cannot allow actions like we saw taken by the Executive Branch during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to be put in place. The draconian shutdowns and overly restrictive mandates which impeded the lives of every Pennsylvanian cannot be given a chance to resurface. The health and safety of Pennsylvanians can be protected without trampling on Constitutional rights.

I have spoken with individuals throughout the communities I represent in Armstrong, Indiana, Jefferson and Westmoreland Counties, and the overarching response to these proposed expansive regulatory changes is grave concern, frustration, and outrage. As a Pennsylvania citizen and lifelong resident of Indiana County I share these sentiments, and voice strong objection to the Department of Health (DOH) changes which would have long-term negative impacts.

From schools, to hospitals, to individual residences, this proposal seeks to permit governmental oversight in almost every facet of one's life, casting aside our Constitutional rights to privacy and unlawful searches and seizures. Equally as concerning is the disregard for the recent adoption of the Constitutional amendment to limit executive authority during an emergency declaration, seeking instead to restore the power through alternative means.

I urge IRRC to reject these proposed regulations so we may ensure the rights and liberties of Pennsylvanians are respected and upheld.

Sincerely,

Joe Pittman
41st Senatorial District