



May 15, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the American Institute of Homeopathy (America's oldest extant national physician's medical organization), I am writing regarding Ohio bill HB 193. The American Institute of Homeopathy strongly supports Freedom of Choice in health care as currently outlined by the Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom (<http://ohioamf.org>). This organization is supporting important legislation (HB193) that was introduced by representative Christina Hagan. This legislation will strengthen health care freedom and protect employees from unfair discrimination. Ohio health Bill HB193 is a proposition that would effectively make it impossible for employers to fire, refuse to hire, or otherwise unfairly sanction employees who choose not to utilize the flu vaccine.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP) which monitors influenza vaccination has found that vaccine effectiveness is mostly at or below 50%.<sup>1</sup> The Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) and the University of Minnesota have concluded that healthcare worker vaccination has little to no value in preventing the transmission of influenza to patients.<sup>2</sup> Finally, a review by the Cochrane Collaboration, after assessing all the trials comparing vaccinated versus unvaccinated, concluded that influenza vaccination has no effect on hospitalization, complication or death rates.<sup>3</sup>

Any public mandate that requires vaccination or threatens the loss of employment and livelihood as a result of not vaccinating, directly violates individual human rights as defined by the United States Constitution amendments 1 and 14. The AIH strongly supports HB193 and a return of authority to make health care decisions back to individuals and their families.

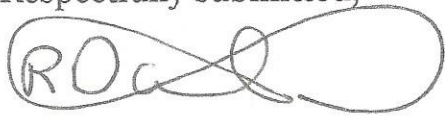
We believe that the issue of vaccination, particularly in regard to influenza, should be a matter of personal choice, informed consent and medical freedom. HB193 is not anti-vaccine legislation; it is *anti-mandate* legislation, and opposes vaccination as a pre-condition for employment. We strongly support Freedom of Choice in health care and in the workplace.

The HB193 bill before the Ohio state legislature protects employees against discrimination from employers who try to terminate or refuse to hire them

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solely because they decline to receive immunization against influenza on medical, religious or philosophical grounds. Passage of this bill would ensure that the basic civil rights of the United States Constitution are honored.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.D. Whitmont", enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

Ronald D. Whitmont, MD  
President, American Institute of Homeopathy

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/effectiveness-studies.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Osterholm, MT, et al., The Compelling Need for Game-Changing Influenza Vaccines An Analysis of the Influenza Vaccine Enterprise and Recommendations for the Future. Accessed online March 3, 2015 from:

[http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/sites/default/files/public/downloads/ccivi\\_report.pdf](http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/sites/default/files/public/downloads/ccivi_report.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Jefferson T, et al. Vaccines for preventing influenza in healthy adults (Review). The Cochrane Collaboration. The Cochrane Library. Wiley Publishers. June 7, 2010.