

Testimony of Jacqueline Arnold

Ohio House Health Committee

Re: House Bill 559

Opposition to proposed changes to immunization exemptions and tracking processes

5/21/18

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, and honorable members of the Health Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to provide opponent testimony for House Bill 559. My name is Jacqueline Arnold. I am writing to you because I have a work commitment and cannot be there in person tomorrow, however, I believe it is very important for you to hear my story.

I am a graduate of Ohio University with a bachelor's degree in biological anthropology and nursing. In 2010 I was forced to get a flu vaccine for nursing school admittance. Nine hours after the shot I felt like death. The following morning I was in such bad shape that my RN mother took me to the hospital. I had an abnormal EKG and was kept for observation. My primary care physician said it was from the flu shot and that he had been seeing more and more adverse reactions from it. He advised me not to get it again because my body obviously couldn't handle it. Fast forward to 5 years later when I had my son, my OBGYN could not understand why I was refusing the flu vaccine. She would not listen to me and my previous experience with the vaccine. It was utter nonsense. I stood my ground and did not get the shot. Physicians are so quick to dismiss any uncertainties about vaccines even when they do indeed cause injury in some people. This change in exemption will force people into vaccinating against their will. Whatever happened to the Nuremberg code? Does Ohio all of a sudden not abide by this code that was implemented to protect people from unwanted medical treatments and experimentation? Also, why would a physician get involved in a religious belief? Physicians are not religious experts, so why should they be signing my religious exemption? Regardless of the medical risks and benefits, if it violates someone's religion they will not do it, and that choice should be respected. After all, we do live in America where the freedom of religion is guarded by our founding fathers. Anyone who tries to go against this is downright un-American and unconstitutional.

Thank you again for this opportunity, and I'm happy to answer any questions you have for me.

Jacqueline Arnold