

Testimony of Lyndsey Ritze, PA-C

Ohio House Health Committee

Re: House Bill 559

Opposition to proposed changes to immunization exemptions and tracking processes

22 MAY 2018

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

Please accept my written testimony in opposition of HB 559. I am a physician assistant and I oppose the proposed changes to the vaccine exemption process as outlined in HB 559. From the standpoint of medical provider, I will be the first to say that there is no single medication, medical intervention, or immunization that is without risk. I spend my day performing procedures and prescribing medications to patients, and above all else I am sure to tell each patient that every intervention I have to offer them is first and foremost THEIR CHOICE whether they want to use/accept it, and comes with both an expected benefit as well as a very real risk of side effects. It is my job as medical provider to guide them through the decision making process and allow each individual to choose what is best for themselves. I do not stand behind the medical bullying I see from so many of my colleagues. Physicians and other medical providers ridiculing and demeaning patients for choosing to take time to consider their options, doing their own research, seeking a second opinion, or even declining a recommended treatment. As medical providers, we are NOT here to coerce anyone into accepting an intervention. We are here to offer help, and to provide that help when it is desired. Requiring a medical provider to sign off on an exemption is sure to create instances of medical bullying and ridicule, which so many parents already face when declining vaccines.

Vaccines carry significant risk. This is a fact that cannot be denied and is disastrously under-rated. Please refer to the 1986 Law passed to prevent pharmaceutical companies from being sued when adverse reactions including death occur as a result of vaccines. [H.R.5546 - 99th Congress \(1985-1986\): National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986](#)

Please refer to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System created by our government to provide a place for those injured by vaccines to report their event and seek compensation from the trust fund created for compensation (not the vaccine manufacturers themselves) [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#)

Please refer to this most recent update by the Department of Justice- Health and Human Services- detailing the current rate of adverse reaction from the previous

quarter. <https://www.hrsa.gov/advisorycommittees/childhoodvaccines/Meetings/20171208/doj-presentation.pdf>

Finally, please refer to ANY of the package inserts included with the vaccine (which is not given to parents unless specifically requested, and then often denied) detailing all of the possible adverse reactions seen in clinical trials. [FDA Product Approval: View All](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Please consider that medical coercion in any form is stripping away of our most basic human right, sovereignty over our own bodies.

The choice to have an exemption should not require approval from any medical provider.

Sincerely,

Lyndsey Ritze, PA-C