

Testimony of Nadera Lopez-Garrity

Ohio House Health Committee

Re: House Bill 559 Opposition to proposed changes to immunization exemptions and tracking processes

May 21, 2018

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, ranking member Antonio and honorable members of the Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of House Bill 559. My name is Nadera Lopez-Garrity. My background is in journalism and political science, from that stems a deep rooted passion for unbiased research and reporting. My primary concern with this bill is that it is a reprehensible big government overreach and an infringement of our State's and federal constitutions.

HB 559 violates the Ohio Constitution §21 (A) which states "[n]o federal, state, or local law or rule shall compel, directly or indirectly, any person, employer, or health care provider to participate in a health care system." The bill violates this section by forcing a parent to participate in a pharmaceutically based health care system, whether "directly or indirectly."

During the April 15 sponsor testimony, Representative Gonzales and Landis claimed that a visit to the healthcare providers listed on the proposed bill would not be required and that faxing the form would suffice. A claim that is not only nonexistent in the bills language but irrelevant, since the mere act of faxing or any other method of communication would still be unlawfully forcing us to participate in a "healthcare system" and therefore a violation of or our constitutional rights.

The bill's proposition that the board of education "shall report the immunization records of all pupils enrolled in the district to the director of health in an electronic format to be uploaded to the department of health's website..." further violates our rights since the Ohio Constitution specifies that "'Healthcare systems' means any public entity or program whose function or purpose includes the management of, processing of, enrollment of individuals for , in full or in part, health care services, health care data, or health care information for its participants." Besides the unconstitutionality of this proposition, I worked in a government institution whereby I and several other individuals, including interns, had access to information the masses believed to be private. But the fact is that once information is electronically handled in such manner, it is no longer private.

HB 559 is also in direct violation of the first amendment rights that protect individual's "free exercise" of religious freedom. A health care provider has no right to sign off or educate an individual who chooses not to vaccinate on the grounds of religious convictions. Some individual's do not agree with the injection of aborted fetal cell lines and have personal

religious believes that compels them to refuse such products and they have every right to participate in a system of care as their convictions see fit.

Unfortunately, we do not have enough time to discuss all the legitimate concerns revolving this subject. At the end of the day, we live in a country that prides itself in freedom, which are fortunately protected by our constitutional rights. If either of these documents means anything to you, you will not pass this proposed bill. I come from a country where the constitution has been blatantly disregarded, so I can tell you first hand that when that happens the entire nation suffers and eventually it crumbles. In August of 2016, I pledged my allegiance to the United States of America, priding myself in its freedoms. I have no doubt you realize the sacredness of that pride and federal and State our constitutions. I just hope you honor it above all else.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nadera Lopez-Garrity