

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 559 – Change School  
Immunization Requirements

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*May 23rd, 2018*

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, and Distinguished Members of the Health Committee, thank you for offering me the opportunity to provide opponent testimony for HB 559.

My name is Dr. Ravi Kulasekere, and I am a board certified medical physicist and the former chief of clinical physics at the Metro Health Medical Center, Department of Radiation Oncology in Cleveland, OH. I am currently practicing as a traditional naturopath, as I opted to leave my job in allied medicine due to mandatory flu vaccine policies at healthcare institutions. I have been a resident of Ohio for over 22 years and have been a vocal supporter of individual freedom of choice with respect to medical procedures including vaccines and providing true informed consent with respect to the same.

I have a number of concerns about HB 559, and I will focus on three for this testimony. The first, is the “informing” requirement on this bill, that states that a parent or guardian declining vaccines for “reasons of conscience, including religious convictions,” must be informed by the person responsible for administering immunizations to the child -- be that a “physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, registered nurse employed by a local health department, or pharmacist” -- about “the risks and benefits of immunization” and “the health risks presented to the child and community by the one or more diseases" for which the vaccine(s) is (are) being declined.

The major issue I have with this requirement is the fact that the proponents of the bill assume that the educators listed have all the facts and education required to provide proper information to a parent. This, as the testimony of my medical colleagues opposing this bill will also show, is not true. None of the individuals mentioned in the bill get a fair and balanced education on vaccines that would encompass not only benefits but also risks, adverse effects, ingredients and possible carcinogenic, mutagenic or fertility impairment issues for which there is no testing done for many vaccines, the effects of vaccine shedding, the fact that vaccines are considered unavoidably unsafe and that manufacturers and administrators are protected from law-suits should injury occur, the existence of VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Effect Reporting System) in case there is an adverse reaction and more. It is painfully obvious that this is not the type of information that is being proposed by the bill. Without proper comprehensive informed consent a parent will be subjected to biased and one-sided information that is coercive and simply favors more vaccine uptake. This is not only immoral it is also an egregious violation of every ethics code in medicine.

This country also boasts of the ability to freely exercise the freedom of speech and the practice of religion. Why then does a bill authorize a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, registered nurse employed by a local health department, or pharmacist to

question and ratify the religious beliefs of a parent as acceptable? This is a clear violation of constitutional right of a parent to make a medical decision based on his or her religious beliefs. No medical professional should be the final arbiter of anyone's religious beliefs and practices.

Additionally, there is the imposed mandate for a parent refusing to accept vaccinations to see a medical practitioner as well as the additional burdens both financial and time imposed on these parents for no reason. Ohio constitutional laws clearly state that no one should be forced to seek the advice of a medical professional. Therefore this clearly violates the laws of the state of Ohio. The reporting requirement for schools mentioned in the bill is also redundant as Ohio already has provision for reporting vaccine uptake at the grade levels that are mentioned in the bill. For these reasons and others we do not need this restrictive, coercive and redundant bill which is nothing more than a continuation of the effort by government and medicine to take away parental rights to make medical decisions for their children.

I therefore sincerely urge the committee to reject HB 559 as it is written and to perhaps consider alternative legislation that would promote more freedom of choice for parents and not infringe upon them. I also urge legislators to carefully examine all opponent testimony as provided and re-educate themselves on the unspoken science of vaccines, vaccine injury and listen to why well educated parents opt out of vaccination prior to proposing such bills in the future. As citizens of the great state of Ohio, we deserve to have our medical and other freedoms championed and upheld by our legislators who should be well versed in all aspects of the science, not attacked and diminished by just listening to those who are deemed experts yet who are woefully under-informed and driven by various agendas.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ravi Kulasekere PhD, ND, DABR