

**Testimony of Robert M. Wise**  
**In Opposition to House Bill 559**  
**Submitted to Ohio House Health Committee**  
**May 23, 2018**

Good morning, Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, Representatives, ladies and gentlemen, I appreciate the opportunity to address this committee.

My name is Robert Wise, and I am a lifelong resident of Ohio.

After reading House Bill 559, I was disturbed and dismayed to find that the bill itself places an obstacle in front of people choosing to exercise their religious freedoms.

According to the U.S. Constitution (First Amendment), Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

Bill 559 compels a person to visit a physician or other medical professional in order to fully exercise their first amendment right concerning one's freedom of religion.

How could this bill have moved forward when it is in direct conflict with the first amendment of the Constitution of the United States, and furthermore attempts to sway persons away from their religious beliefs by mandating medical intrusion into families that may not believe in the use of modern medicine at all.

Bill 559, states, in part, "...the physician, physician's assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, registered nurse employed by a local health department, or pharmacist responsible for administering immunizations to **THE** child."

If **THE** child has never been to one of the mentioned medical professionals due to their religious convictions, who would be

responsible for passing on the information that this bill stipulates? The answer would have to be no one.

Is the State of Ohio attempting to say that persons that choose not to vaccinate their children due to their religious convictions are ignorant? If no, why would it mandate these parents to receive unsolicited information concerning these vaccinations?

This bill, if made law, would allow the State of Ohio to violate the First Amendment rights of any citizen that seeks to follow their religious convictions by placing a condition on that right.

Furthermore, it would allow the State of Ohio to violate its own Constitution by forcing a person who chooses not to have their child vaccinated, to be forced to take part in a health care system in order to have their child be allowed to attend school.

In closing, I would like to say that having a system such as this, where people can come and voice their opinions concerning bills is invaluable.

Does Bill 559 prohibit the free exercise of religion? YES, it does.

Does Bill 559 compel a person to participate in a health care system? YES, it does.

Does Bill 559 promote discrimination and segregation? YES, it does.

Having a bill violate both the U.S. Constitution (First Amendment) and the Ohio Constitution should concern not only every Ohio citizen, but every citizen in this country that believes in the free exercise of their religion.

Better people than you and I have given their last full measure at home and abroad in order to keep these rights intact. I urge you to do the same, and stop HB559.

Thank you for your time and attention.