

Testimony of Sarah Oesch
Ohio House Health Committee
Re: House Bill 559
Opposition to proposed changes to immunization exemptions and tracking
processes
Date May 17th, 2018

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 Sarah Oesch. I am a stay at home mother of three ages 7, 4, and 1. I am also the mother of an angel who would be 8. As a homeschool mom, this bill will not affect me directly. I am here because at some point, you will come for my children as well. I stand here because if I do not stand up for our constitutional rights there may be nothing left for my children, my children's children or their children.

It is my understanding HB559 is an updated bill to help parents of immunocompromised children who want know vaccination rates so they protect their children. This is a noble cause. This bill tugs at the heart strings of anyone who loves children. In 2009 my son was born with a severe heart defect. If he was here today, he would be in the category of immunocompromised. As a parent of a child that was, I would never ask another parent to put their child at risk for the small chance it may (or may not) protect my child.

The fact is a vote for this bill is a vote against our constitutional rights. Our individual, God given right as a parent to make decision for our children as we see fit. The truth is the majority of bacteria and viruses do not have associated vaccines and no one is discussing the risks that live-virus vaccines pose.

This bill would impose extra, unfair requirements on a minority of Ohio parents who utilize vaccine exemptions by forcing them to see a specific health care professional. Not all families use doctors or other health care professionals who vaccinate. Furthermore, a doctor is not qualified to determine religious or conscience matters, nor is that a Constitutional test of sincerely held beliefs. The bill states the Ohio Department of Health will develop the immunization form but fails to specify what can or cannot be included in the form. This bill is an attack on parental, informed consent, and medical freedom rights.

Our constitution was written so the individual rights of citizens would be protected. As a citizen of the United States of America and a citizen of Ohio my rights are protected by the Bill of Rights which limits what government can do to people. Socialist societies are the ones who make decisions based on the common good, not constitutional republics. While it is noble to want to ease the mind of parents whose children are immunocompromised it cannot be done at the expense of others.

The bill sponsors keep saying this is no big deal, do not let them minimize the importance of this decision. Look at what is happening around the country. This is a big deal because if you do not stop chipping away at our freedoms, at our constitutional rights, there will be nothing left for our children or their children.

As Patrick Henry said... "If we wish to be free if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained, we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of Hosts is all that is left us! ... Will it be the next week, or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed, and when a British guard shall be stationed in every house? Shall we gather strength by irresolution and inaction? Shall we acquire the means of effectual resistance, by lying supinely on our backs, and hugging the delusive phantom of hope, until our enemies shall have bound us hand and foot? Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power."

Thank you.