

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking member Antonio and members of the committee,

My name is Stephanie stock. I'm a Physical Therapist Assistant and mom of a child who suffered a vaccine injury that left him with chronic gut pain, digestive problems, and a diagnosed speech apraxia. As a therapist with over 19 years' experience working with neurologically affected patients, I would like to state that an **“apraxia” is the “inability to perform particular purposeful movements as a result of brain injury”**. According to the last study done in 2004, **Speech apraxias account for about 3.5 % to 4.5 % of children referred for speech disorders**. [http://www.asha.org/PRPSpecificTopic.aspx?folderid=8589935338&section=Incidence\\_and\\_Prevalence](http://www.asha.org/PRPSpecificTopic.aspx?folderid=8589935338&section=Incidence_and_Prevalence)

My son's injury caused him to require 3 years of speech therapy and special reading services which cost the state approximately \$20,000. The **Individuals with disabilities Education Act requires that speech therapy be provided as part of public education services for children with speech or language impairments**. **Many children like my son are being injured by vaccine mandates, and it's bringing astronomical costs to the state!**

**During a call I had with bill sponsor Anne Gonzales, I was assured that HB 559 was a bill mandating a basic “state form that would be non-incriminating to parents declining vaccines”, and that this form could be “easily signed by the healthcare practitioner of the parent’s choice and bullying would not occur”**. She said forms could be **“faxed to the schools without an actual visit to the doctor’s office since vaccine education materials could just be mailed to the parents”**. And, she also said the **“tracking would be anonymous and could not possibly lead to discrimination of unvaccinated children or their parents”**. But in this 29-page bill there is absolutely NOTHING guaranteeing ANY of these statements. **That’s NOT what the bill says!**

This bill creates a government mandate that puts money in the pockets of pediatricians for “vaccine education visits” and enables them to legally bully parents into receiving a medical product that they do NOT want their child to receive, while forcing them to pay for it, and THEN tracking them if they will NOT comply. Why is it that vaccinating parents get LITTLE to NO education on the RISKS of a product they ARE receiving, while HB 559 would force non-vaccinating parents to get, and pay for an “education” on a product they AREN’ T even receiving?

A study published in “Pediatrics” in 2004, showed that “unvaccinated children tend to have a mother with a college degree, making over \$75,000 a year …and indicated that medical doctors have little influence over vaccination decisions for their children.”

Many of us are healthcare professionals ourselves and have spent years researching vaccines, yet Ohio seeks to openly interfere in our right to parent our children? I would like to know if the State will be held responsible for vaccine injuries (like my son’ s) that occur as a result of Parent getting pressured into vaccinating during one of these mandated ‘vaccine education’ sessions?

Sponsors and Bill proponents claim that “Tracking” portion of HB 559 will “help parents with Immune compromised children be aware of vaccination rates in their schools so they can make informed decisions on sending them there” . According to Ballotpedia.org ONLY 11.3% of Ohio children attend Private school, WHILE 86% attend PUBLIC School.

Are parents who have immune compromised children in the public school systems going to be allowed to go to other school districts with higher vaccination rates? Will the state confirm that parents wishing to change school districts actually have an immune

compromised child & are not just parents who are afraid of lower vaccination rates? If a large percentage of these parents wish to leave these districts, how will that affect the tax dollars going to those schools & will it affect the quality of education for the remaining children? This bill is NOT being pushed for the common good of children's health or protecting the immune compromised. **The 2017 CDC report shows that only 2.4% of Ohio kindergarteners are utilizing any form of vaccine exemptions,... our schools are WELL ABOVE the levels that the CDC claims are required to achieve "herd immunity" . Tracking and posting statistics on these children will do nothing more than cause unnecessary disease panic and possibly lead to discrimination of children whose parents are choosing to exercise their right to obtain a STATE ALLOWED exemption.**

**It' s TIME for our legislators to see this bill for what it REALLY is... an attack on parental rights in order to accommodate the agenda of the Ohio AAP.**

Ohio should remain FIRMLY grounded in the principles of our state and federal constitutions and protect the rights of parents to make decisions in the best interest of their children, WITHOUT government interference.

**Please VOTE NO on HB 559.**