

Testimony of Anne Abbott
Ohio House Health Committee

Re: House Bill 559

Opposition to proposed changes to immunization exemptions and tracking processes
May 22, 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 Anne Abbott.

Our daughter, Rozlyn Henderson June, was born a happy, healthy little girl on June 17, 2010. She developed just like all children her age and hit her milestones on or before the target age. My husband and I decided to do vaccines one at a time on a delayed schedule after our first family doctor gave her PediaX vaccine with a combination of vaccines. At the age of 1 we began with her DTap vaccinations and spread them out over a period of time. Then at her 2 year check-up, we decided to begin her MMR vaccinations.

On June 12, 2012, Rozlyn was given the MMR vaccine at our family physicians office. She had the normal fussy period as she did with the DTAP but after a week she began to seem a little off, not as responsive and continued to be fussy. She began to have a low grade fever on June 27th but she was able to play still. On June 28th, Rozlyn had been outside for a short period of time and came in with her dad to take a shower. My husband walked in after about 5 minutes and noticed she wasn't moving and in a staring state and non-responsive. We immediately rushed her to our local ER. When my husband got to the hospital she began to twitch her arms. After about 30 minutes, the ER doctor confirmed she was having a seizure and gave her Ativan via IV and that she had a fever of 101.1. They ran a series of tests and found nothing in the ways of infection, virus or bacteria. By April 2013 she was having seizures every week.

Throughout all the seizures, Rozlyn was continue to develop according to her age except she was delayed in speech. Over a period of time, her seizures changed to simple partials and shorter in time. But they were still frequent. Our Neurologist suggested we meet with the epileptic seizure doctor to see if Rozlyn would be a candidate for brain surgery. We met with Dr Greiner on September 3, 2013 and after reading her files, he felt she would be a candidate but would be sure until she went through a week of extensive testing.

On October 7, 2013 Rozlyn was admitted to the Epilepsy Medical Unit for a week of VEEG monitoring, MEEG scan, PET scan, Ictal scan and MRI tests. After they got the information they needed from the grids and all the seizures, we met with the doctors and were told that our normal little girl had to have right hemispherotomy/Craniotomy that would leave her with left hemiparesis. On February 12, 2014, she went in for a 9 hour surgery. She went in with full functioning body and came out with only have a body working. She underwent 4 weeks of

intense inpatient rehab at Cincinnati Children's and came home not walking. While in recovery and rehab, we got the results of the biopsy that confirmed she had Rasmussen Syndrome.

We are still seizure free, but she remains unable to use her left hand and has weakness in her left arm and leg. She is also blind in the left side of both eyes. It is hard to believe that a once healthy, little girl at birth began a life full of traumatic events following her first MMR vaccine. I blame myself every day with the "what ifs." Now we want to have her story heard and for those wanting to mandate vaccines to understand, there are major risks. We want families to not have to go through what we have. If we are made to talk to someone who gets to make the decision for us to have exemptions, we are being denied basic parental rights. This is my daughter, her life, her future at stake along with many other kids. We are not opposed to informed consent, but want to be treated like all other parents.

We want more information for and against presented prior to any vaccination, not after the vaccine is given. We want parents to hear the good and bad. I am worried if this bill passes, parents will only hear one side of the vaccine effects. There are a lot of reactions that aren't taken seriously. As a parent in a doctor's office, you are only given the positives. Only the statistical facts of how it benefits the mass population. You don't hear what negative reaction is given. That is not given a parent the right to an informed consent. It needs to be a fair choice and not just one that benefits the vaccine and medical industry. Do I think vaccines are horrible? No, I once vaccinated my child. What I do feel is horrible is not given all the information before making the choice or not having the choice at all. Please think about how you would feel if you were only given some of the facts before making a major life choice that will affect your health and future.

Thanks again for this opportunity, and I'm happy to answer any questions you have for me.

Anne H. Abbott