

To: Members of the House Health Committee

Fr: Monica Hueckel, Senior Director of Government Relations, Ohio State Medical Association  
Joe Rosato, Director of Government Relations, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: June 18, 2019

Re: House Bill 210

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On behalf of the nearly 16,000 physician, resident and medical student members of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), we are writing to express our support for House Bill 210. This legislation would require, for the purpose of tuberculosis screening, that each preschool or day-care program determine, before employing any individual as a director, staff member, or nonteaching employee, if the individual meets both of the following criteria:

- 1.) Has resided in a country identified by the World Health Organization as having a high burden of tuberculosis; and,
- 2.) Has arrived in the U.S. within the 5 years immediately preceding application for employment.

Should the individual seeking employment meet these criteria, the preschool or day-care program would be directed to require the individual to undergo a tuberculosis test before employment.

Tuberculosis (TB) is a contagious disease that typically attacks the lungs, but may attack other organs as well. TB is an airborne disease, meaning the bacterium spreads through the air when an infected person sneezes, coughs, or speaks. A person may have either a latent or active TB infection. In latent TB, the individual is asymptomatic and cannot spread TB to others, but can develop active TB without treatment. In active TB, there are symptoms present such as weight loss, cough, or fever, and the person may spread the bacteria to others. Without proper treatment, TB can be fatal.

As with many infectious diseases, infants and young children are among the most at risk for developing active TB infection if exposed to the bacterium, and also particularly at risk of potentially dangerous complications of the disease. HB 210 seeks to set in place a preventative measure to identify if an individual seeking employment in a child care or preschool facility is at risk of spreading TB infection, and to test these individuals before employment in order to prevent the spread of disease to children and others employed by the facility or program.

Thank you for your attention to our comments on HB 210 and for the opportunity to be meaningful contributors to the legislative process. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.