



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of Student Life

Student Health Services

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May 5, 2015

The Honorable Anne Gonzales
Ohio House—Health and Aging Committee
77 S High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairwoman Gonzales:

We write to encourage your support of Senate Bill 121, legislation to require students to be vaccinated against meningitis at an age recommended by the Ohio Department of Health. We feel this bill emphasizes the importance of immunizations and their role in protecting the health of all citizens of the state.

College is a time when students live, learn and engage with each other in close quarters—from the classroom to the residence hall. While vaccination requirements alone cannot stop outbreaks, medical evidence shows that higher levels of vaccination among a population lead to greater protection and less severe symptoms should an outbreak occur.

At The Ohio State University, the health and safety of the university community is one of our top priorities. As you may know, all new students to The Ohio State University beginning with the fall semester 2015 will be required to demonstrate proof of vaccination for the routine recommended vaccines as supported and approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Ohio State's new policy also includes a requirement for any student living in on-campus housing to receive vaccination for meningococcal disease as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

SB 121 would help support the university's efforts for students to be vaccinated before entering college. For this reason, we encourage the committee to support this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

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CC: All Members, House Health and Aging Committee