

Amy Chapman
Opposition Testimony HB559
May 23, 2018

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, ranking member Antonio and honorable members of the house committee. My name is Amy Chapman and I would like to thank you for allowing me to speak to you today concerning my objections to House Bill 559.

I would like to start my testimony by speaking about the fact that this bill is simply unconstitutional. This bill violates our Ohio state constitutional right of the freedom to choose health care and our health care coverage, (Article I- the Bill of Rights 1.21) where it states "No federal, state or local law or rule shall compel, directly or indirectly, any person, employer, or healthcare provider to participate in any health care system." Does this bill compel an individual to participate in a health care system? Absolutely. Please consider civil rights and other lawsuits that could result. The vaccine education as a condition to exemption is offensive to parents and to one of our country's founding principles, the free exercise of religion. Medical opinions and claims about the science are irrelevant to a strong held personal or religious objection. Requiring a parent to receive any vaccine education or information amounts to the state putting itself between parents and any strong held personal belief. Bill 559 adds financial burden to those families who lawfully decline vaccinations. Out of pocket expense for a vaccine education visit and administrative fees could cost between 95-120 \$ per child.

Last week we heard testimony that the Ohio Chapter of the AAP as an organization, 100% supports a parent's right to make the decision whether or not to vaccinate their child. However, both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Ohio State Medical Association support legislation that removes all nonmedical exemptions. AAP policy is calling for all states to use their public health authority to eliminate nonmedical exemptions for school entry and recommends that state laws permitting nonmedical exemptions to school should be eliminated. HB-559 is the first step in the direction to eliminate our nonmedical exemptions we have here in our state of Ohio. It is an attack on our rights as parents.

We also heard testimony on behalf of the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians that the adverse reactions for vaccinations are so low, it is unreal. In 1986, the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act was signed into law as part of a larger health bill. It is a federal no fault system that compensates vaccine injuries or deaths by establishing a claim procedure involving the United States Court of Federal Claims. Vaccine manufacturers are in no way responsible for injuries or

deaths. Zero liability. Over 3.8 billion of taxpayer dollars have been paid out from the National vaccine injury compensation program.

I would like to read a list of adverse reactions that are listed on Merck's M-M-R II product insert, it is 11 pages long. It states "M-M-R II has NOT been evaluated for carcinogenic or mutagenic potential, or to impair fertility." Here is a complete list of 40 known adverse reactions reported during clinical trials and with use of the marketed vaccine, starting with the body as a whole: Panniculitis, Atypical Measles, fever, syncope, headache, dizziness, malaise, irritability. Cardiovascular system: vasculitis. Digestive system: pancreatitis, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, parotitis. Endocrine system: diabetes mellitus. Hemic and lymphatic system: thrombocytopenia, purpura, regional lymphadenopathy, leukocytosis. Immune system: anaphylaxis, angioneurotic edema, bronchial spasm. Musculoskeletal system: arthritis, arthralgia, myalgia. Nervous system: encephalitis, encephalopathy, measles inclusion body encephalitis (MIBE), subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE), Gullain Barre Syndrome (GBS), acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM), transverse myelitis, febrile convulsions, seizures, ataxia, polyneuritis, polyneuropathy, ocular palsies, and paresthesia. I would like to remind you that the adverse reactions I just read were from one vaccine. We deserve to know the risks involved when taking a product from an industry who is not held responsible when injuries occur. I again would like to remind you that vaccine manufacturers are in no way responsible for injuries or deaths.

Finally, as an Ohioan, I am proud to live in a state that upholds our constitutional rights and as our elected officials, you have the opportunity to do just that. Please do not take a step toward the removal of nonmedical exemptions and join me in opposing this bill!