

**Testimony of Lindsey Evans**

**Ohio House Health Committee**

**Re: House Bill 559**

**Opposition to proposed changes to immunization exemptions and tracking processes**

**5/21/2018**

**Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, Honorable Members of the Health Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today to voice my opposition to HB559.**

My name is Lindsey Evans and I have a 6 year old son with epilepsy and developmental delay.

The day of his two months shots, my gut feeling was that he wasn't ready. When I voiced the concerns with the nurse and asked what would happen if he had a reaction to a vaccine, she confidently told me "All the shots are made the same way with the same ingredients, so really you'd never know which one he's allergic to anyway."

Knowing what I have researched myself on the CDC's list of vaccine ingredients, that nurse lied to my face. I don't believe she meant to lie, but she was completely uninformed and should not have been counseling me at all. She certainly didn't tell me about the vaccines made from the cell lines of aborted children, which horrifies me as a pro-life person. Had I been properly informed, I would have declined the vaccine but I was made to feel that I didn't have a choice but to comply.

I'll never forget that blood curdling scream my son let out immediately after the needles were pulled out of his tiny thighs. He slept on the car ride home and I thought that was it. However, when we arrived home, for 8 straight hours, he screamed. When I talked to my pediatrician about the crying he said it was "normal, because babies cry a lot."

Again through my OWN research about adverse vaccine reactions, I found out, the doctor lied right to my face. It is NOT normal, in fact, the manufacturer's insert, that I was not given, says if your baby cries uncontrollably for more than 3 hours, you should seek medical attention. But the nurse never informed me of the risks or side effects of vaccines, so I didn't know he was suffering from encephalitis (brain swelling). The real risks of vaccine injury now far outweighed the perceived benefits for my son.

When I went to my "trusted healthcare provider" they were ignorant about vaccine side effects, adverse events and ingredients. They gave me absolutely no useful information to help make an informed decision. I just kept hearing they were safe and effective.

Everything I have learned about vaccinations, I have taught myself. I have spent hundreds of hours late at night researching ingredients, published medical studies, how diseases work and how immune systems work. In fact, if you were to ask my husband, he will certainly tell you he's tired of hearing me talk about all the things I've read about day in and day out for the past five years in regards to vaccinations, the methylation pathway and body functions.

And now, in addition to the time I spend trying to heal my son and deal with his challenges, I am forced to be here today to defend the right for my children to attend public school. The reason I am here is because

I know where this ends. The proponents of the bill would have you think this is just paperwork however, the truth is, this is a first step. The American Association of Pediatrics with the help of Dr. Richard Pan have published their plan to strip parents of their rights.

Their plan began in 2011 in Washington, Dr. Richard Pan, State Senator, California, crafted his bill AB2019, in 2012 after SB5005 in Washington, these bills required parental counseling by a licensed health care provider about the risks and benefits of immunizations to obtain a nonmedical exemption. This is starting to sound familiar.

In his recent commentary "*Restoring Community Immunity in America*"<sup>1</sup> in the Journal "*Pediatrics*," published by the American Association of Pediatrics, Dr. Pan lays out the game plan that the Ohio AAP is following with the introduction of HB559.

Dr. Pan explains that with AB2019 "Requiring families to visit a health provider for counseling made the burden similar to bringing the child to be vaccinated. However, vaccine hesitancy resumed increasing after implementation of the law."

Now, this is where the proponents want you to think they're on our side and they will not want to change the exemptions in Ohio. I'm here to tell you that is wrong, because the AAP already published what comes next. In the August 2015 edition of their journal *Pediatrics*, there is an article titled "*California Pediatricians Take on Vaccine Opponents and Win*."<sup>2</sup>

Dr. Pan notes in his most recent editorial "I authored SB277, abolishing nonmedical exemptions...In SB277's first year of implementation, California's kindergarten class achieved a vaccination rate of 96%. Thus, vaccination policy should not only address barriers to nonmedical exemptions but also address medical exemptions...."

So as you can see, it's not enough that we are forced have an appointment for a "conversation" with a state chosen health-care provider if we oppose vaccination, which violates the Ohio Constitution. Their goal is to slander parents like me, who for personal or religious reasons decide not to vaccinate their children and then take away those choices.

Make no mistake that the proponents of this bill are following the California protocol with the introduction of this bill. The Ohio AAP President, stated on the public Ohio AAP Facebook Page<sup>3</sup> that "A conversation is more effective and has been shown effective in other states." But if they support a parents right to vaccine exemptions, why are they trying to decrease the rate of filing exemptions?

Because that's their main concern - 100% compliance regardless of your personal beliefs, religious views or medical condition.

Dr. Pan mentions medical exemptions in his commentary saying, "Organizations that set professional standards (including certification boards, medical specialty societies, and licensing bodies) should sanction physicians who seek profit from unprofessional conduct that undermines public health and endangers children and communities."

Again 100% compliance is their goal. Now in California, they are attempting to revoke the licensure of doctors who feel it is in the patient's best interest not to receive further vaccination.

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<sup>1</sup> Pan, R. J. (2018). *Restoring Community Immunity in America*. *Pediatrics*, 141(1).

<sup>2</sup> Jenco, M. (2015) *California pediatricians take on vaccine opponents and win*. *Pediatrics*, 36(8).

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/aapohio>

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This room is the top of the slope. Honorable Members of the Health Committee, you can protect the rights of all Ohio Parents. Forcing a parent to have a conversation with a healthcare provider with whom they have no prior relationship and that has a bias towards the family's lifestyle is certainly falling down the slope. Please keep the current rights of parents in Ohio intact. I urge you to oppose HB559.

I thank you for this opportunity and am happy to answer any questions you may have.