

Testimony of Christy Jaynes

RE: HB 49-proposed amendment to immunization exemptions and tracking by the Ohio AAP

Good morning. My name is Christy Jaynes, and I am the mother of a vaccine injured son. My son, Paxton, has permanent brain damage from his vaccines which negatively affects every aspect of his life. The past 2 years have been filled with nothing but doctor appointments, evaluations, bi-weekly therapy sessions for 3 different types of therapies, countless hours of researching, and spending thousands of dollars to try and do whatever we can to help improve the quality of life for Paxton. This experience of having a vaccine injured child has been a DAILY heartbreak.

Every time I read a story about what is happening with vaccine exemptions in other states, I always sigh in relief that I live in Ohio. Ohio has all 3 exemptions which makes it **easy** for a parent to decide what they feel is right for their child. Ohio **respects** parental choices and doesn't put a burden on parents, children, school districts, and doctors. Today, being the mother of 4 children, I am so proud to say I live in Ohio and never plan on leaving because of our exemptions and freedom of choice. Ohio is a state that makes it easy for me to **protect** my child from yet another adverse reaction.

I have solace knowing that when Paxton begins kindergarten, all I have to do is go to my school district's website, print off a form, check mark a box, and sign it.. That's it. With that simple process, Ohio has respected my decision.

I cannot imagine having to take this form, go to my pediatrician's office, pay a copay on top of whatever Anthem feels like applying to our crazy high deductible, and then what? Listen to a doctor tell me why I should still vaccinate my child after all that we have been through? How my personal or religious beliefs "aren't good enough" for him/her to sign off on? How insulting.

A free and public education is a constitutional right. End of story.

It shouldn't be a constitutional right but only if you find a doctor to sign your exemption form.

A constitutional right shouldn't cost a parent time and money to obtain.

I once believed vaccines were safe. I know now that that isn't true for everyone, and where there is risk, there should be a choice, **and that choice shouldn't come with hoops to jump through.**

I know I don't have the time today to go into detail of all that we have been through with our son, so I will leave you with this. When I share Paxton's vaccine injury story, all I hear is "when you know better, you do better." Over and over again people tell me, "when you know better, you do better"...I need your help with the "do better". Please, please help me by continuing to make it easy for me to "do better."

Thank You,

Christy Jaynes