

Today's Date 5/23/17
Name: Melissa Rupert
Address: 3141 Meadowwood St NW Massillon, OH 44646
Telephone: 330-861-8723
Organization Representing: none
Testifying on Bill Number: HB 49
Elected officials and committee members,

As an Ohio citizen I would like my voice heard on this issue HB 49. It's easy with issues with such controversy, such as HB 49, to get sidetracked with whose side you personally agree. However you are not elected for your personal opinions. You have been elected by the people to protect our rights. I'd like to point out we all have one thing in common and can agree upon, the AAP and those opposing HB 49 want to protect the people. The views of how to protect everyone is what seems to differ.

I am an Ohio citizen, decent from German, American Indian, and Chinese heritage. I have chosen through my heritage and personal beliefs to live more of an Eastern versus Western way with Chinese medicine, Eastern philosophies, herbs, and other such medical modalities. Because I don't believe the Western Medical ways such as the AAP practice, forcing a law on my family such as this, would go against my personal rights. My elected officials and committee members are supposed to be protecting those rights. If the AAP wants to protect its people through vaccination then they should make vaccines that work and are safe and allow those who believe in those practices to participate freely. There have been many points made to oppose this bill, HB 49 but I would also like to remind the officials that their main job is not to agree with one side or the other but to protect ALL of our rights. The only way to protect ALL of our rights is to make sure that we remain free to make the decisions based on our own beliefs whether they are based on cultural heritage, religious or personal experiences. Ohio must keep all its exemptions (medical, personal belief and religious) in order to obtain the freedom and protection we ALL desire.

Testimony: _____ Verbal ☒ Written _____ Both
Testifying As: ___Proponent ☒ Opponent ___ Interested Party
Are you a Registered Lobbyist? ___ Yes ☒ No
Special Requests:

Sincerely,

Melissa Rupert