

My name is Dr Susan Payson.

I am a licensed physician in Ohio. I graduated from Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1995. I completed a 1 year Internship, then completed a 3 year residency in Emergency Medicine in 1999. All of my medical education and training has occurred in the great state of Ohio! I immediately went into practice, in Ohio, full time in emergency medicine, then part time as I had children, then I took a break to be a stay at home mother. I have been back to work in Urgent Care Medicine, in Ohio, since 2015.

I also completed a 1 year Health Policy Fellowship in 2002. I learned that Cost, Quality, and Access were the key issues that legislators think about when they decide if they will or will not give support to proposed laws presented from stakeholders.

Problem #1: There is a requested amendment to the budget from stakeholder Ohio American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) regarding medicine that appears to be using the vehicle of funding to change health policy in Ohio, which circumvents the normal avenue of making and debating health policy.

Testimony about the contents of the Ohio AAP requested amendment can be found here:

http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache%3AbTQIJxUmQ00J%3Asearch-prod.lis.state.oh.us%2Fcm_pub_api%2Fapi%2Funwrap%2Fchamber%2F132nd_ga%2Fready_for_publication%2Fcommittee_docs%2Fcmts_fin_health_sub_1%2Ftestimony%2Fcmts_fin_health_sub_1_2017-05-16-0900_487%2Fsenatesubcommitteehb49seangallagher.pdf+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us

Problem #2: The request is for funding a vaccination educational program meant to increase vaccination rates for school aged children. However, it appears that the Ohio AAP has already received funding for such a task from the Ohio Department of Health.

Excerpt from Ohio AAP website, April 2017:

“The Ohio AAP also received funding to work with the six Pathways Community HUB locations in Ohio to create a set immunization curriculum for their community health workers and provide resources around immunizations to share with the at-risk families they work with. This program is being led by Mike Gittelman, MD, FAAP.”

<http://ohioaap.org/ohioaap-article/ohio-aap-awarded-a-subgrant-for-immunization-activities/>

Problem #3: The proposal changes Ohio health policy by putting the physician as gatekeeper to all 3 types of exemptions, instead of only the ones of medical necessity. Physicians are trained in medicine. Physicians are not the decision makers about someone else's personally held religious beliefs or philosophical beliefs. This puts the physician in a position of power that is not appropriate to his or her training or role, which is a violation of the physician's ethical practice of medicine.

Please consider what you are truly being asked to do if you agree to include this amendment to the budget.

Thank you,

Dr Susan Payson