

FINANCE – HEALTH AND MEDICAID SUBCOMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 5/22/2017

Name: Janet Levatin, MD

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Organization Representing: Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom

Testifying on Bill Number: HB 49

Testimony: Verbal Written X Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent X Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes X No

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

5/22/2017

To: the Health and Medicaid Subcommittee of the Finance Committee

From: Janet Levatin, MD

I have been a physician since 1982, and am a board-certified pediatrician, licensed to practice in both Ohio and Massachusetts. It has come to my attention that there may be an amendment being added to the budget bill HB49 that will require all vaccine exemptions for all school children to be approved by a physician after a medical visit and vaccine "counseling." I also understand that this amendment, if included in the bill and passed, will standardize data collection and reporting on vaccine rates of schools.

I object to this amendment being included in the bill for the following reasons.

I object to the process by which it is being introduced. This bill is over 4,500 pages. There is slim to no chance that the representatives voting on the bill will have even read the amendment or be aware of its existence. In my opinion, it is dirty politics to slip an amendment into a bill, late in the process, when there is a good chance the bill pass, but little chance that the amendment will be adequately considered by those voting on it.

I also object to the content of this amendment. All citizens in our great state, as well as in our country, deserve free and unfettered choice when it comes to medical procedures, especially those that are inherently elective, such as vaccines. Limiting, restricting or hampering free and unfettered access to choice in medical decision making is a violation of basic human rights. Collecting data on citizens and sharing it with others, even anonymously, is also a violation of our right to privacy.

As an experienced physician, who has dealt with serious vaccine reactions, including the death of 3 infants shortly after vaccination, I strongly object to limitations on freedom when it comes to

choice in vaccination, which is an inherently an elective procedure, and which should remain fully elective.

I strongly urge the committee to reject this amendment for inclusion in HB49.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Levatin, MD