

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and Honorable Members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee. My name is Lindsey Evans and I am writing in opposition to SCR 10. I am especially concerned with the proposed OAC 3701-36-05 changes.

I came across SCR 10 while I was combing bills to see current status. I was surprised to find out that a bill was related to a JCARR meeting back in August of 2018 and was just being introduced and heard. After I did a little digging I realized that this was the Ohio Department of Health's way to sneak in immunization increases by withholding money from local health departments that did not meet certain reporting metrics.

By inserting language that gives a metric of "increasing immunization rates in grades 7 and 12" and typing that to funding, you have by all intents and purposes rewarded a health department (or punished, depending on the status) for pushing a for-profit, liability-free consumer product on their area community.

Withholding dollars from a local health department that does important work because their local citizenry declines a pharmaceutical product is absolutely not appropriate and it is totally unethical. Given the fact that Ohio holds three exemptions to ORC in regards to choosing to vaccinate, and that vaccine manufacturers are not held liable for any damage their product creates - it is not okay that funding is tied to public uptake of these drugs.

The other issue I have with this rule change is that it posts publicly (on a website) the immunization rates of a community at the health district level. We also know that those health departments that go above and beyond will get more funding. So what's stopping them from posting the rates by zip code? What about by street level? What about grade level?

Would you be okay with everyone posting the rates of say, STDs in your community? What if your neighborhood was labeled as a "hot spot" for STDs? This is the kind of lunacy we are talking about when we want to make private health information public. It has no place in a free society.

Although this language went through JCARR and was announced through the Ohio Department of Health, the majority of the public (all the public as there were no comments on these days) had no idea as the notices are quickly disseminated often the day before. And to my regret, I was unaware of these actions until I saw SCR 10 on the schedule.

I thank you for your time and I would request that you vote NO on SCR10.