

**HB 435: COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements**  
**Opponent Testimony: Randall M. Flint, REHS, MPH, Health Commissioner**  
**Alliance City Health Department**  
**Ohio House Labor and Commerce Committee**  
**October 7, 2021**

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I appreciate the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on House Bill 435. The timing of this bill is not helpful in curbing the current surge of COVID-19 and moving Ohio past the pandemic for good. During this critical time, the General Assembly should focus on finding ways to encourage our citizens to get vaccinated rather than discouraging it. Our cases over the last month in our community have increased dramatically and more concerning is our increased number of deaths in this current surge of the COVID-19 Delta variant. Additionally, our hospitals continue to be overwhelmed with COVID-19 cases. This is a critical issue because our hospitals have to focus their efforts treating COVID-19 cases and not able to provide care for our citizens in need of other many times serious medical issues.

Additionally, it is always concerning that the legislature is dictating policy to employers in our state. Our employers should be able to make decisions and set policies for the health and safety of their employees and customers as they feel necessary.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns, and once again, I urge the committee to reject HB 435 to keep Ohioans safe and keep use moving forward to end this pandemic.