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March 23, 2021

Dear Chairman Lipps and members of the House Health Committee,

I am writing to share my strong opposition to House Bill 248. I am a practicing pediatrician and am the medical director of the Pediatric Primary Care Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. I consider the absolute most important aspect of my job to ensure that my patients are vaccinated. Over the past several years, we have seen an unfortunate increase in the number of parents who have declined to vaccinate their children due to a lot of misinformation in the media. As a result of this decline in immunization rates, I have seen the return of some vaccine preventable illness--such as pertussis (whooping cough), which can be lethal for infants.

HB248 represents a public health crisis waiting to happen. It is imperative that children continue to receive vaccines and that schools and daycares know the vaccination status of all of their enrolled children. Unimmunized children represent a significant public health risk to all of us, especially those children who are too young to be immunized and any person with an immunocompromising condition.

We have worked too hard in this state and in this country to protect our children and our most vulnerable citizens through vaccinations. H248 would represent a lethal step backwards with the most vulnerable in our society paying the price. Please vote "no" against this bill and protect our communities and keep them healthy.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,

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