

Members of the House Health Committee,

My name is Adam Gailani, MD. I am a resident physician at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. I am writing this statement in opposition to House Bill 248, which is a dangerous bill that would only worsen the health and wellbeing of the people of Ohio.

By preventing daycares and schools from simply requesting that children be vaccinated and keeping track of immunization status, this bill places the children of Ohio at risk, including those kids who are too young to receive immunizations or are unable to due to medical conditions. We see the effects that these preventable diseases can have on children at Cincinnati Children's. Diseases like Pertussis (whooping cough), the flu, and COVID which bring countless children to our emergency department, hospital, and even ICU every year. Keeping immunization records is also key to tracking outbreaks when they do occur and slowing or stopping the spread of these diseases.

This law would also prevent hospitals from requiring up to date vaccinations in their employees and could potentially prevent them requiring the wearing of facial masks. This is incredibly dangerous. Vaccinations and protective equipment such as face masks are proven methods to prevent illness and reduce the spread of infection. This becomes especially important within hospitals where there are many patients with transmissible diseases and compromised immune systems. This would place patients and workers at needless risk.

Ultimately this bill would do nothing to benefit the people of Ohio. Ohio already allows parents to refuse vaccination for religious reasons or reasons of conscience. This bill would only serve to make us sicker and less able to respond to the health needs of our communities. Thank you for taking the time to hear my opposition to the bill.

Adam Gailani, MD