



June 7, 2021

Dear Members of the Ohio House Health Committee:

We are writing in strong opposition to HB 248 as it was introduced.

As physicians we are compelled to reinforce concerns about what surely must be unintended consequences of this legislation should it become law in its current form.

This legislation has the potential to reverse decades of immunity from life-threatening, diseases such as measles, mumps, hepatitis, meningitis, and tuberculosis. All of these diseases are vaccine-preventable. The individual and societal costs that would be incurred by the re-emergence of these diseases is enormous. It is hard to fathom the amount of health and economic consequences for our citizens and our communities that are possible under the roll-backs proposed in this legislation.

When considering the balance of the rights of individuals, we would suggest that the rights of health care providers and the patients that we care for not be overlooked. Our “business” is the care of patients, many of whom have health needs that require all possible protections. Our personal health and the health of all providers who could come in contact with these patients potentially impacts their health outcomes. Our personal vaccinations are a foundational element of patient protection. Changes to our vaccination policy threatens to take us backwards to re-introduce health risks that have been previously eradicated many years ago.

We add our voices to the request HB 248 not be passed so that we can better protect the vitality of Ohio’s children and families and avoid disastrous consequences for the future of the people of our state.

Sincerely,

Stephanie W. Costa, MD
Co-Chair
Public Policy Committee
CMA

William Cotton, MD
Co-Chair
Public Policy Committee
CMA

Robert Falcone, MD
CEO
CMA

