

Testimony of William H. Cotton, MD, FAAP
Advocacy Co-Chair, Ohio AAP
HB 248

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to express my concerns about HB 248.

You have heard the stories of citizens of Ohio who have claimed to have had injuries from vaccines. This is a small but very vocal group.

I am going to share the story of a million vaccines. As medical director of the primary care clinics at NCH I helped supervise the administration of over 100,000 vaccines per year for over 10 years. These vaccines were administered with few side effects. This effort has bolstered the protection not only of these children, but of the entire community. This is the majority of Ohio! The system is working for them. They are not running to the statehouse to demand that an effective program be continued.

HB 248 if enacted will undermine the current success of Ohio's vaccine program. If vaccines are refused in greater numbers the success of the current program will slowly crumble. Diseases like polio and measles that were only a bad memory will once again become a problem. Then the majority of Ohio will be beating down the state house doors to remove a law that was made at the whim of a few Ohioans.

Thank you for allowing me to share my organization's concerns.

Please feel free to contact me to further discuss my concerns.