

June 15, 2021

Chairman Lipps
Vice Chair Holmes
Ranking Member Russo
Members of the House Health Committee
Reference: Testimony on House Bill 248 (BG-248)

My name is Lisa Schaaf, MSN, RN, CPNP-PC. I am a practicing primary care pediatric nurse practitioner at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. **I stand in opposition to HB-248, a bill that itself stands in opposition to the health and well-being of Ohioans.** My professional career has been dedicated to caring for children and young adults with chronic illness (mostly type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus). The administration of vaccines in these high risk youths have prevented measles, mumps, whooping cough, meningitis, influenza, acute COVID-19, and Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome. Preventing these infectious disease in youth with diabetes has protected them from potential morbidity and mortality.

Vaccines and public health measures like masking represent some of the safest and effective strategies we have at keeping children and communities healthy. Because of such strategies, children now live to adulthood, free from infectious diseases which previously wiped out scores. Moreover, because of such strategies, we are finally seeing the promise of the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, a scourge that has killed nearly 20,000 Ohioans.

The science is clear, with study after study underscoring the degree to which benefits of vaccines outweigh the risks. The opposite is true of this bill. In contrast, HB-248 will result in a greater frequency of preventable diseases and associated morbidity and mortality in youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,

Lisa Schaaf, MSN, RN, CPNP-PC