

HB 248: To Prohibit Required Vaccination Status
Opponent Testimony: Ripal Patel
Ohio House Health Committee
June 18, 2021

I am a second year osteopathic medical student and appreciate the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on House Bill 248. HB 248 will not only prevent mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations, but would actually extend to apply to all vaccinations. This legislation is concerning as it would significantly weaken the vigorous public health framework that has been established to protect us from the devastation of many vaccine-preventable diseases. This bill would hinder our progress in the public health realm and creates barriers in the long time efforts to prevent communicable diseases.

As someone who is a family member to many immunocomprised individuals, I want to ensure that they are healthy, safe, and protected from vaccine preventable illnesses. While these individuals may have a weakened immune system, herd immunity and the requirement of vaccination status in schools and universities offers them protection. Vaccines have been a medical breakthrough and have allowed us to live our daily lives largely safe from many diseases that once spread through the population unchecked. We cannot afford to risk weakening that protection with HB 248 as it would cost us many lives.

I urge the committee to reject HB 248 to keep Ohioans safe and avoid dangerous consequences for our state. Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.