



June 16, 2021

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

My name is Meilan Rutter, MD. I am a practicing pediatrician and pediatric endocrinologist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

I stand in opposition to HB-248, a bill that will threaten the health and well-being of Ohioans.

I have devoted my professional life to caring for children in the clinical setting and working to pursue better outcomes for children and their families across communities. Over the years, I have treated many children and young adults with chronic illnesses. The administration of vaccines in these children and young adults have prevented measles, mumps, whooping cough, meningitis, influenza, acute COVID-19, and Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome. Preventing these infectious diseases in young people has protected them from potential morbidity and mortality.

Vaccines and public health measures such as masking represent some of the safest and most effective strategies we have to keep our children and communities healthy. Due to these strategies, children now live to adulthood, free from infectious diseases which previously caused widespread death and debilitation. Moreover, in the case of COVID-19, these strategies are bringing 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 the benefits of vaccines outweigh the risks. In contrast, HB-248 will reverse the progress that has been made, and result in a greater frequency of preventable diseases, with associated morbidity and mortality in youth and the entire community.

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

Sincerely,

Meilan Rutter, MD  
Medical Director, Differences of Sex Development (DSD) Center  
Associate Professor, UC Department of Pediatrics