

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Martha Stevenson Wright. I am a newly retired teacher and a resident of Reynoldsburg. I am strongly opposed to House Bill 248, the anti vaccination bill.

As a teacher and historian, I am particularly upset and worried about this bill that ignores the personal protections we already have in place and, perhaps even worse, ignores science. This bill reaches too far into the rights of those in the community, including citizens who uphold our economy by running businesses and students who should have the right to be safe at school. If we as a nation hope to retain our superior place in the world, we must reject fear and ignorance and support our community by accepting science.

Please also consider my unique perspective as a family genealogist. When I scan death records from small towns in pre-vaccination America, I see babies, toddlers, youth, and young adults, as well as every age, dying of all the diseases that are now either controlled or eradicated by vaccines: polio, tetanus, measles, whooping cough, mumps, diphtheria, and even diarrhea caused by rotavirus. It is truly heartbreaking and something that we basically take for granted today. Now we have a public health pandemic and ignorance of history and science cannot be accepted, especially if we care about our economy and way of life.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote **NO** on this ignorant and dangerous bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Martha Stevenson Wright

1353 Addison Drive
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068