

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Cirino and Ranking Senator Craig

I would like to thank you for reading my testimony regarding amendments to the Ohio House Bill 218. I am a pediatrician at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, and I am very concerned about the negative effects HB 218 would have on the people of Ohio. I am strongly encouraging you to NOT implement this legislation.

Cincinnati Children's, and many other hospitals across the state, have rightly chosen to make the COVID vaccine mandatory for employees. This decision has not only allowed us to protect our work force, but to also protect our vulnerable patients and their families. It has been an important tool in our fight against this pandemic. In addition to hospitals, many other organizations such as businesses and schools have also required COVID vaccination. With the continued emergence and spread of new variants, and the beginning of our normal viral illness season, these mandates allow us to protect the people of Ohio. Removing the ability of these organizations to require vaccination would be a step in the wrong direction, and would harm many of our fellow citizens.

Sincerely,

Adam Gailani, MD