

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Cirino and Ranking Senator Craig

I am a practicing pediatrician at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. I **oppose** HB218.

As a physician, I committed to an oath to do no harm. House Bill 218 does harm to Ohioans and I cannot sit idly by while this dangerous legislation may hurt the patients, specifically children, I serve.

As a pediatrician, I have taken care of children at their most vulnerable times and it is incredibly devastating to care for children that have suffered from vaccine-preventable illnesses. For example, I have cared for children with whooping cough, pneumoniae due to the flu, and more recently over the past year have been caring for children with COVID-19 respiratory illnesses and Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MISC). In order to prevent these illnesses, there needs to be a safe and trusted dialogue between a physician and patient about the potential benefits and risks of vaccines is incredibly important in each of these cases. However, passing of the HB218 will unravel this trusted space between physicians and patients.

HB218 goes against my oath because does not protect children in Ohio. We are still in the middle of a pandemic; it is of utmost importance to track vaccine-preventable illnesses in order to protect the general public. This science is established and trusted – in order to combat pandemics like these, we need to vaccinate our children and adults, be able to track cases, and quarantine them immediately to protect Ohioans. Any less than these measures cause harm to not only patients I serve, but also to all Ohioans, and perpetuate the pandemic.

As a pediatrician at Cincinnati Children's, I **OPPOSE HB 218**, as it directly opposes my oath as a physician to do no harm.

Sincerely,

Anita Shah DO MPH