

Ohio Senate General Government Committee
Opponent Testimony on HB 218
Ariel Miller, Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Craig, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as the wife of a 71-year-old doctor who works in the student health service at Miami University. We are also patrons of many performing arts organizations in Cincinnati, to oppose HB 218's vast expansion of exemptions from showing proof of COVID-19 vaccination to attend classes or performances.

The pandemic has had a calamitous impact on Ohio's university students and arts organizations, cheating them of in-person attendance, effective learning (especially for science and arts students), joy, and vital revenue. You may not remember the number of colleges that had to shut down in the fall of 2020 before vaccines were available. If that's happening now, I am not seeing it in the news. Vaccine mandates for Ohio university students are clearly a major factor in this return to normalcy.

In October, we started attending concerts of the Cincinnati Symphony, to which we've subscribed for over 25 years. We also went to a Broadway Series performance with two grandchildren. It was a huge comfort to see that everyone eligible for vaccines had to show proof of vaccination before entering, and wear masks.

This bill is going to deter many patrons from attending live performances and puts Ohio performers and arts organizations at huge risk of financial loss just as they are beginning to get back on their feet.

Please don't add to the disruption of education and impede economic recovery by passing this bill!

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Ariel Miller
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