



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

HOCKING COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

350 State Route 664 North - Logan, Ohio 43138
Phone 740-385-3030 Fax 740-385-2252

12/6/2021

Dear Senator Peterson,

Please accept this as written testimony to indicate my opposition to Ohio House Bill 218 (HB 218). I stand with many public health agencies and professionals, which are still fighting every day against the COVID-19 pandemic, that are concerned about this proposed Bill as passed by the Ohio House.

I understand and appreciate the concerns about vaccine requirements by employers and institutes of higher education in Ohio but HB 218 creates continued concerns by falling short of what I feel is needed at this time. I stand with others outside of public health that have similar concerns like the business, medical, and university communities. At this very time, when COVID-19 cases are once again on a concerning rise and the best protection is still vaccinations, actions must not be carried out that take away protection of our employer's rights to make decisions about their employees which are felt to be in their best interest.

I am another one that feels (as both a health commissioner and a regular Ohio citizen) that at this current state or point of our COVID-19 pandemic response, our government should not be setting or preventing mandates regarding vaccinations. I feel HB 218 as passed by the House allows for too broad of exceptions (natural immunity, medical, and religious) that essentially anyone can opt out with little effort.

In closing, I stand opposed to HB 218 in its current form because it is important that employers such as hospitals, schools, universities, and other places of business have the right to put in place workplace policies that they feel will be best for the common good and safety of those that attend and work at their facilities.

Thank you,

Douglas S. Fisher, DPM
Health Commissioner