

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Cirino and Ranking Senator Craig:

I am writing to express my opinions about HB218. As a pediatrician it is my duty to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of children. One key method is prevention of disease or harm. We support the use of car seats and bike helmets to prevent injury. We have life guards and police officers to help prevent accidents. We have vaccines to help prevent severe disease. As a doctor I have seen firsthand the damage that can be caused by vaccine preventable diseases. I have seen children die from the flu, children die from pertussis and now, children die from COVID. I have seen even more suffer complicated hospital stays, missed school and lose family members to these diseases. I also know that natural immunity IS NOT equal to vaccine induced immunity. This bill is dangerous and puts the lives of many Ohioans at risk, including our children. Children's Hospitals stand in strong opposition to this bill, which would further degrade public health efforts to manage this pandemic, as well as negatively impact child health.

Karen E. Jerardi, MD, MEd