



WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET
COMMITTEE

OPPONENT TESTIMONY

HB 218

December 7, 2021

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate General Budget Committee, thank you for the opportunity to write in opposition of HB 218, which contains language that would preempt municipal Home Rule authority.

HB 218 includes a provision that would prohibit a municipality to require that an individual from show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 in order to enter a facility owned by that municipality, or to receive a service provided by that municipality. The bill would also preempt municipalities by prohibiting them from being able to require an employee to receive a vaccine or similar medical treatments for which the FDA has not granted full approval.

These provisions are clear violations of municipal home rule authority as granted to cities and villages in the Ohio Constitution. Municipalities must be able to keep their residents safe in the ways that are best for each individual community. No two municipalities are alike, and the government closest to the people governs best. We strongly urge your opposition to these preemptions against local control.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League