

Dear Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Cirino and Ranking Senator Craig:

I am writing to STRONGLY oppose House Bill 218. I am a pediatrician who practices Hospital Medicine at a children's hospital in Ohio. Having completed extensive training in pediatrics and serving as a practicing physician for over 12 years, I have treated many patients with vaccine-preventable illnesses. To watch a family endure the pain of losing a child or having their child suffer the consequences of an infectious disease that could have been prevented through medical innovations like vaccines is heart-breaking. I urge you not to allow a bill to pass that limits public health measures that not only keep individual children safe but also the community as a whole. To pass a bill such as this one during a pandemic is truly irresponsible.

Please respect the many healthcare workers, researchers, and public health officials who have dedicated their careers to science. HB218 is not supportive of child health and can limit our ability to end the COVID-19 pandemic. I stand in strong opposition to HB218.

Sincerely,
Angela M. Statile, MD, MEd