



NVIC Position Statement in Support of HB 319

Submission to the Ohio Legislature, House Health Provider Services Committee
Proponent Hearing 6/11/2024 4:00 PM
Room 017

by Dawn Richardson, Director of Advocacy
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Hello. My name is Dawn Richardson. I am offering this written testimony in support of HB 319 as the Director of Advocacy for the nonprofit National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC) founded in 1982.

As of May 1, 2024, the United States Government has paid out more than [\\$5.22 billion dollars to vaccine victims](#) through the [National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program \(VICP\)](#). As of April 26, 2024, there were [47,847 deaths](#) and [2,602,082 adverse events](#) reported to the US government's Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System.

As studies have pointed out, these severe vaccine reactions are [significantly underreported](#), making the instances of severe vaccine reactions even higher.

Clearly, there are dangers associated with vaccines. Not everyone's immune systems and bodies react the same, and often, doctors cannot predict who will be harmed.

One-size-fits-all vaccine policies and laws, which force individuals to risk their health the health of their children without voluntary informed consent and with the threat of punishment for declining a vaccine [violate human rights](#).

[Informed consent](#) means you have the legal right to be fully and accurately informed about the benefits and risks of a medical intervention, including a pharmaceutical product, and are free to make a voluntary decision about whether to accept the risk for yourself or your minor child without being coerced or punished for the decision you make.

Nobody should have access to a business, employment, insurance, medical care, long term care, public accommodations, education, or participation in society limited, nor should they be punished or discriminated against for refusing medical interventions, including vaccines or biologics, for reasons of conscience including religious beliefs.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we all witnessed these very injustices happening to folks who refused vaccination in an attempt to coerce, shame, or extort them into taking a vaccine they did not want to take. As rhetoric is being whipped up for bird flu and other diseases, we must ensure that these injustices do not happen again to law-abiding citizens in Ohio seeking to provide for or take care of themselves or their families.

Thank you. Please support and pass HB 319.