

Judith Feinberg, MD
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Dear Chairman Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member White, and Members of the Health Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Dr. Judith Feinberg. I am an infectious diseases specialist and former faculty member of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine for 20 years; I retired as Professor Emerita in 2015. I am well known for seminal clinical research in the management of AIDS and its complications. As the head of HIV clinical research, I was responsible for bringing in over \$25 million in federal grants to the University of Cincinnati during my tenure.

I am strongly opposed to HB561. My long career as an infectious diseases clinician, researcher and educator has provided me with this perspective. I have cared for young people with pneumonia and encephalitis (brain infection) from measles. I have seen older survivors of childhood polio who were referred to me for post-polio syndrome: the late onset of new muscle weakness that made them wheelchair-bound. All we can do for these terrible infectious diseases is provide supportive care, as there are no therapies for measles or polio.

I remember well what it was like before we had a vaccine for polio. We couldn't go swimming in the summer: all the pools were closed to limit polio transmission. A boy down the block wound up in an iron lung. Our parents were terrified. When the opportunity arose to participate in the Salk vaccine trial at my elementary school, my parents did not hesitate. Nor did the parents of 29 out of 30 classmates. Their relief was immense when we were told at the end of the trial that I had received active vaccine, not placebo: I was protected!

HB561 will weaken protection against preventable infectious diseases not only for Ohio's children, but also for family and community members whose medical condition precludes vaccination. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote *NO* on this harmful bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith Feinberg, MD