



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Butler County
General Health District

June 11, 2021

The Honorable Scott Lipps
Chairman, House Health Committee
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Lipps:

As a practicing community pediatrician and the Medical Director for the Butler County General Health District, I am writing today to express my opposition to HB 248-11.

For the past 10 years I have had the privilege of caring for Ohio's children. As a pediatric resident at Cincinnati Children's hospital, I learned the fundamentals of pediatric care from some of the leading physician researchers in the world. From there, I joined a large pediatric group practice that cares for roughly 10,000 children across Butler and Hamilton counties. In addition, I serve as the Medical Director for the Butler County General Health District where we work towards our mission to prevent disease and promote health and wellness for all the citizens of our county.

One of my favorite aspects of pediatrics is our unique ability to educate our patients and witness prevention in action. I counsel my patients on the importance of all kinds of prevention: injury prevention with the use of carseats and bicycle helmets; cavity prevention with good brushing habits and dental visits; drowning prevention with pool safety and swimming instruction; and most importantly, disease prevention with hand hygiene and childhood vaccinations.

Childhood vaccinations are the single most important thing we can do to ensure the health, wellness and longevity of Ohio's children. The success of childhood vaccines have nearly eliminated many serious and deadly illnesses including measles, polio, tetanus and chicken pox to name a few. The broad actions of HB 248-11 would eliminate the important collaboration between parents, their pediatrician and their school, which provides important guidance regarding needed vaccinations, but additionally promotes regular wellness visits, vision and hearing screenings and mental health screenings. If passed, this bill would have catastrophic, long-term effects on the health of children and adolescents for many years to come. Therefore, I urge you to vote NO on HB 248-11.

Sincerely,

Michelle L Burch, MD FAAP