

HB 248: To Prohibit Required Vaccination Status
Opponent Testimony: [NAME]
Ohio House Health Committee
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I appreciate the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on House Bill 248. I am gravely concerned by this legislation, as it would significantly weaken the robust public health framework that protects us from the devastation of many vaccine-preventable diseases. HB 248 does much more than prevent mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations, as it would actually apply to ALL vaccinations.

I am a family physician in Kettering Ohio and I have practiced for 33 years since residency. I can recall when the vaccine schedule consisted of very few immunizations. As a resident and a young physician, I treated patients with illnesses such as meningitis and pneumonia that had no vaccine available at the time. I have been around long enough to have seen a number of really great vaccines introduced to society such as Bexsero, Menactra, Varivax, Shingrix, HIB, Prevnar, Pneumovax and Gardasil. These have all greatly reduced the burden of infections and deaths in patients of all ages since they were introduced.

Physicians who are a generation ahead of me treated patients with polio, measles, diphtheria, and pertussis. Many of these patients suffered permanent injury or death from these infections. I did not treat these illnesses because they were virtually eradicated due to vaccines. And let us not forget smallpox, which ravaged the planet in a number of pandemics and which I have never seen because it was eliminated by the smallpox vaccine.

People who do not believe in immunizations endanger all of us because they can allow vaccine-preventable illnesses to infect those who are too young to be immunized or who are immunocompromised.

Please do not remove vaccine protections which have been proven effective for decades in our country.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns, and once again, I urge the committee to reject HB 248 to keep Ohioans safe and avoid dangerous consequences for our state.