

June 12, 2021

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the House Health Committee:

I am Donald Nguyen, MD, a pediatric specialty physician in practice for more than forty years with the last twenty one years of those in Ohio. I am outraged and dismayed by HB 284. You must strongly oppose this bill.

HB 284 would dramatically decrease the number of Ohioans vaccinated against various diseases by limiting vaccination requirements and encouraging people to go unvaccinated against numerous life threatening diseases. In addition to existing diseases with effective vaccines (polio, measles, covid 19, meningitis, tetanus and more), there will be more pandemics in the future and this bill would severely handicap Ohio efforts to save lives. Even among those who survive, HB 284 will increase lasting disabilities from infectious diseases.

The 2014 measles epidemic among unvaccinated Ohio Amish is a clear example of the threat to health that comes from an unvaccinated population. HB 248 would dramatically increase the frequency and number of people affected by such epidemics because HB 248 would dramatically increase the unvaccinated population.

The medical profession around the country is watching Ohio. Rural areas in Ohio already have trouble recruiting enough primary care doctors. I can guarantee you that newly minted doctors are going to think twice before considering coming to Ohio to practice medicine if HB 284 passes.

If this bill becomes law, it would send Ohio back to the dark ages to the days of polio and other communicable diseases which are currently well controlled.

I stand with the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics , The Ohio Children's Hospital Association and all children's hospitals in Ohio, the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians, the Ohio Hospital Association, the Ohio Nurses Association, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and others too numerous to name in opposing this bill. I urge you to vote no on HB 248. Thank you.