

**HB 248: To Prohibit Required Vaccination Status**  
**Opponent Testimony: Ariunaa Bayanjargal, 2213 Century Dr, Columbus, Oh, 43211**  
**Ohio House Health Committee**  
**June 16, 2021**

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My name is Ariunaa Bayanjargal. I am pursuing an MD degree along with a PhD in pediatric cancer at The Ohio State University. As part of my training, I have learned and researched many topics including immunology and vaccines. I am deeply concerned by this legislation, as it would put our youngest patients at risk! As a humanity, we have worked hard to build a robust public health framework that protects us from once tragic now preventable diseases. HB 248 would do significant harm to all of our health as it would prevent ALL mandatory vaccination. I fear we would be taking thousands of backward steps and in doing so would hinder ourselves in the fight against the current and future communicable diseases.

Thanks to vaccines, we live in a safer, healthier place than our ancestors before us did. Vaccinations are truly one of public health's greatest success stories. Through continued scientific breakthroughs, we continue to be spared from a multitude of setbacks and losses. HB 248 is deeply troubling, as it would give more diseases (some far deadlier and more contagious than COVID-19) the opportunity to run rampant, generate exorbitant, avoidable health care expenses, and most importantly, cost us lives. Many of these lives would be children as vaccination saves 20 million children's lives across the globe.

Vaccines are a direct contributor to economic gains, too. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that for every \$1 spent on childhood vaccination programs, our country saves about \$10.90 in health care costs, and that routine vaccination of children born between 1994 and 2018 has saved our country close to \$406 billion in medical costs and \$1.88 trillion in total society costs. Studies by CDC researchers have found that in a typical flu season, influenza imposes an estimated \$87.1 billion economic burden on the country, and health care facilities requiring flu vaccinations among their employees can reduce patients' risk of contracting influenza or influenza-like illness by 42%.

Through vaccinations we not only provide critical protection for infants, young children, and immunocompromised individuals, but we keep ourselves, our families, and our neighbors safe. We have come to take the success of vaccinations for granted as we all benefit from their protection every single day. Because of vaccines, we live our daily lives largely safe from many diseases that once spread through the population unchecked. We cannot afford to risk weakening that protection with HB 248. Vaccinations do not take away our freedoms; vaccinations *give* us freedom.

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.