

To whom it may concern,

My name is Benjamin Claytor, I am a physician and resident of Ohio. In my position I and have a vested interested in keep our community and state healthy. Our health policies should reflect our desire to keep everyone healthy and empower people to make their own sound decisions about their lives and their health. I truly believe good policy can accomplish both these ends.

Vaccines are obviously a contentious issue and I completely agree that it is an individual's choice and should remain a choice to be vaccinated. Vaccines, however, do not just affect the individual obtaining them. Not getting a vaccine is not just about your health but it affects the health of those around you. It is EXACTLY analogous to not letting people smoking indoors in public places. You cannot smoke indoors in public places because it could give others cancer which no one seems to have a problem with. If you are not vaccinated you should also not be allowed to spread this disease to others if the owner of a property or a business does not want you on their premises.

I think this comes down to an argument of free to versus freedom from. I agree you should have the freedom TO not be vaccinated, however, we as a community also deserve freedom FROM illness.

If an employer wants to ensure all his employees are free from this now preventable illness they should be allowed to mandate vaccines. The employee has a choice: get vaccinated or find another job. If employers cannot mandate COVID vaccines and say an employee with a weak immune system who was vaccinated gets COVID from an un-vaccinated employee, who really has freedom or choice in this situation? I think we need to say to people in Ohio that you have every right not to be vaccinated, but not being vaccinated does not mean you have the right to spread a preventable disease.

This is not a political issue this is a human health issue which is why you will surely find that almost all physicians are on one side of this argument and will ask you to reject this bill. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Claytor, MD