

June 14, 2021

The Honorable P. Scott Lipps
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

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

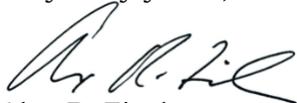
The Columbus Partnership is gravely concerned by HB 248-11, legislation that would threaten the stability of our economy as it recovers from a devastating pandemic and jeopardize the public health framework that prevents outbreaks of potentially lethal diseases. At the core of this legislation, this bills would not only prevent the COVID-19 vaccine from being mandatory but apply to all immunizations, including childhood vaccines.

The Columbus Partnership is a non-profit, membership-based leadership organization of 75 chairpersons, chief executive officers, and senior executives from the region's leading businesses and institutions. Our members include 15 Fortune 1000 CEOs, as well as the leaders of the nation's largest university and world's largest research and development organization.

The Partnership's goal is to provide a long-term vision for achieving greater economic prosperity and has positioned Columbus to be one of the strongest environments to attract businesses and investment in the world. This vision for prosperity compels us to stand with business leaders across the State of Ohio in advocating for businesses to implement important safety measures meant to protect their employees, clients and others.

As current Ohio law allows for school immunization exemptions to decline vaccinations for medical, religious, or reasons of conscience (known as the philosophical exemption), and most businesses allow for flexibility in regard to vaccinations, we question the need for HB 248-11. This overly broad proposal would further strip away accountability and compassion for our fellow Ohioans, and cause severe disruption to our state's health, economy and way of life. HB 248-11 directly combats the work of our companies to encourage COVID-19 vaccinations among their employees, clients and community members. It is our sincere hope that you reject this bill to keep Ohioans safe and our business environment strong.

Very truly yours,



Alex R. Fischer
President and CEO

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