



June 15, 2021

Chairman Lipps
Vice Chair Holmes
Ranking Member Russo
Members of the House Health Committee
Reference: Testimony on House Bill 248 (HB-248)

My name is Jennifer J Kelly APRN. I am a practicing Nurse Practitioner in the Endocrinology department at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

I stand in opposition to HB-248, a bill that will threaten the health and well-being of both Ohioans and those visiting our state.

I have devoted my professional life to caring for children in the clinical setting and working to pursue better outcomes for children and their families across communities. Over the years, I have treated many children and young adults with chronic illness (mostly type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus). The administration of vaccines in these high risk youths have prevented measles, mumps, whooping cough, meningitis, influenza, acute COVID-19, and Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome. Preventing these infectious diseases in youth with diabetes has protected them from potential hospitalizations and death.

Vaccines and public health measures like masking represent some of the safest and most effective strategies we have to keep our children and communities healthy. Due to these strategies, children now live to adulthood, free from infectious diseases which previously caused wide spread death. Moreover, in the case of COVID-19, these strategies are bringing the promise of the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, a scourge that has killed nearly 20,000 Ohioans.

The science is clear with study after study underscoring the degree to which benefit of vaccines outweighs the risk. In contrast, HB-248 will result in a greater frequency of preventable diseases and associated morbidity and mortality in youth and immune compromised adults.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,

Jennifer J Kelly RN, MSN, APRN
APRN Program Lead, Division of Endocrinology