



June 16, 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 Michelle Lawrence MSN RN CPN NPD-BC. I am a practicing Registered Nurse in the Division of Endocrinology 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 Ohioans.

I have devoted my professional life to caring for children in the healthcare and community settings. Over the years, I have cared for 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 morbidity and mortality.

On a personal level, I am the proud parent of medically fragile child who has Trisomy 21 and associated medical conditions. He is at a higher risk than the general population of having complications from infectious diseases. He has had to rely on herd immunity to keep him safe in public settings. HB-248 would threaten his potential to be an active member in the community and threaten his quality of life.

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.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Michelle Lawrence MSN RN CPN NPD-BC  
The Division of Endocrinology  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center