



June 18, 2021

Chairman Scott Lipps  
Ohio House of Representatives  
Health Committee

Re: Opposition HB 248

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify in opposition to HB 248. Nationwide Children's Hospital strongly supports immunizations and urge that all children be fully vaccinated. We believe this bill threatens the health of Ohio's children and would create a devastating impact on Ohio's children and families.

My name is Melonie Phillips, and I am one of the second-year pediatric residents completing my three-year general pediatrics training at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

To quote Benjamin Franklin, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." This is surely the case for vaccinations, which are foundational to medicine. Diseases that used to be commonplace in the United States and the world, including measles, polio, and rotavirus, can now be prevented by vaccination. Vaccines are safe and effective, and disinformation about them is rooted in junk science. This legislation would prohibit any entity, including schools and places of childcare, from requiring or requesting any vaccine information. This bill would lead to decreased rates of childhood vaccinations leading to outbreaks of potentially lethal, yet preventable, diseases. This threatens not only the health of all Ohioans, but our economy and way of life.

During my training in medical school, and now during residency, I have not yet seen a child with polio, rubella, Haemophilus influenzae meningitis, or other vaccine preventable diseases. When I talk to attending pediatricians who trained 30-40 years ago, they recall caring for multiple children who died or lost limbs due to Haemophilus influenzae sepsis and meningitis. I do not want these diseases to make a comeback, and vaccines are the way to keeping them in the past.

Nationwide Children's believes HB 248 jeopardies the health of Ohio's children now and in the future. We ask you to oppose HB 248. Thank you for allowing me to comment on HB248.

Melonie Phillips, MD  
Pediatrics, PGY-2  
Nationwide Children's Hospital