

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Cirino, and Ranking Senator Craig,

I am writing to implore you to halt proceedings on HB218 which poses a threat to the health and well-being of our communities. This bill undermines public health efforts to keep citizens healthy by prohibiting vaccine mandates in schools and colleges. I am firmly against passage of this legislation as it poses a significant health risk to children both in my community and nationally. Vaccines have strong evidence for safety and can prevent unnecessary morbidity and mortality. It has been demoralizing as a healthcare provider to continue to see legislation that directly undercuts our efforts to keep the children of Ohio safe and healthy. I have spent significant time over the past 2 years taking care of children with COVID-19, some of whom have required hospitalization and many of whom have long-term sequelae. Shouldn't we be doing everything we can to come together in the face of this shared adversary? I am asking you to please reconsider passage of this dangerous bill because I don't want to be taking care of your loved ones with COVID-19 in the hospital in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Daniel Herchline, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
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