

Dr. Matthew Molloy, MD, MPH, FAAP

December 2, 2021

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

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 218.

I am a board-certified pediatrician and provide care for hospitalized children. As a pediatrician, it is my duty to protect the health, safety, and well-being of children. One key method is prevention of disease or harm. As a community, we support the use of car seats and bike helmets to prevent injury. We have life guards and police officers to keep us safe. Similarly, we have vaccines to prevent severe disease.

As a physician, I have seen firsthand the damage that can be caused by vaccine preventable diseases. I have seen children die from influenza and meningitis. Unfortunately, I have also seen children die from COVID-19. I have seen many more children suffer complicated hospital stays, missed school, and loss of parents to these diseases. I also know that natural immunity IS NOT equivalent to vaccine-induced immunity.

When families send their children to their doctor for care or to school to learn, they should be able to do so knowing that those environments are safe. We have a long history of common-sense public health requirements like vaccines to keep those places safe. Since I started school as a child and as I have progressed through my medical training, I have gladly followed vaccine requirements to keep myself, my colleagues, and my patients safe.

This bill is dangerous and puts the lives of Ohioans at risk, including the lives of our children. Children's Hospitals and countless medical professionals stand in strong opposition to this bill, which would further weaken public health efforts to manage this and future pandemics. The community trusts pediatricians with the care of their children and I hope that you will also trust us when we say that this bill is dangerous and should not become law.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Molloy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Matthew Molloy, MD, MPH, FAAP