



December 2, 2021

Dear Senator Peterson:

The physicians of Columbus Medical Association Public Policy Committee ask your opposition to House Bill 218.

This legislation is a part of an effort over the past several months to promote “medical freedom”. The perception and practical impact of this legislation is to dilute vaccination efforts.

To be clear, from a medical perspective, the evidence on vaccines is consistent and clear. Everyone who can be vaccinated should be vaccinated. The underlying science and medical experience of hundreds of millions of patients is clear – COVID-19 vaccines work to protect patients from illness and death.

It is undeniable that the vast majority of severe COVID-19 cases that overwhelm our communities and hospitals during virus spikes are occurring in unvaccinated individuals. The vaccines work, just as other vaccines have prevented much suffering from measles, polio, and other infectious diseases. Vaccination is the primary way to put the COVID-19 pandemic behind us, avoid the continuing battles over more stringent public health measures, and achieve a return to some level of normalcy that we all seek.

As medical professionals, we support vaccination for our patients; additionally, we support required vaccination for ourselves and all associates of healthcare organizations. There is an ethical commitment of all health care workers to prioritize patients’ needs and take all steps necessary to ensure their health and well-being. Vaccination is a logical requirement for those of us who choose to work in healthcare.

We ask your opposition to HB 218. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us should you have any questions you feel we might help to address.

Sincerely,

Stephanie W. Costa, MD  
Co-Chair  
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