



**Center for
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Re: Ohio HB218

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

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the exemption components for COVID vaccination contained in HB218.

HB218 allows for a wide variety of exemptions including two that go against medical science or the welfare of children:

- 1) Natural Immunity
- 2) Reasons of personal conscience, including religious convictions.

My oppositions are as follows:

1) Natural immunity does not protect against severe re-infection, and this aspect of the bill implies that getting COVID is better than getting the vaccine, which is irresponsible and dangerous. I work in the Cincinnati Children's Hospital ICUs and have witnessed significant pediatric patient morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 infection. The data are very clear that vaccination can significantly reduce the risk of morbidity and mortality in people who develop COVID infection subsequently.

2) There are no religious texts I am aware of that prohibit life saving measures to protect a child and the community.

Our duty as adults is to protect children from preventable life-threatening illnesses and not put them in harm's way because of our own adult personal convictions.

Sincerely,

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