



Senator Andrew O. Brenner – 19th District
Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
June 9, 2021
Senate Bill 195 – Sponsor Testimony

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee thank you for allowing me to testify on Senate Bill 195, which would ensure the personal and medical information in the Vax-A-Million database remains private.

This issue was brought to my attention while giving sponsor testimony on another bill. I was asked, “Is the Vax-A-Millions database private or public?” In my testimony, I said that I thought that the database was in fact a public record because the database was created by citizens voluntarily entering their name into the database. Privacy is not necessarily protected in this database due to the fact that a participant may not have been vaccinated. When asked by a reporter, Ohio Department of Health Director Stephanie McCloud said that she believed that the database was private because it was being maintained by the ODH. She went on to say that if the legislature believes that it is a public record, then we can legislatively make it private. I suggest we do so.

This legislation is in temporary law and only refers to the Vax-A Millions database. It says that the database of individuals registered and their personal information contained in the database is confidential and is not a public record as defined under section 149.43 of ORC. Personal information in code includes the name, electronic mail address, telephone number, street address, and vaccine location information of individuals who registered for the Vax-A-Million campaign, and includes the name, electronic mail address, and telephone number of a parent or guardian.

This bill would not affect the winners of the lottery; it would only make private any medical and personal information volunteered by the millions of Ohioans participating in the Vax-A-Millions lottery. Lastly, I would just mention that the language in this bill was included in the Senate omnibus amendment, but the emergency clause in Senate Bill 195 would allow this to go into effect immediately upon passing.

Members of the Committee thank you for your time and I am happy to try and answer any questions.