House Health Committee HB 550 Opposition Testimony by Chris Isaacson

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio and honorable members of the House Health Committee, thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 559.

My name is Chris Isaacson, and following my review of the introduced bill, there are several points that I wanted to make in opposition to the proposed amendments. These points are in relation to the development of additional rules and regulations, which would only contribute to an ever-expanding government.

I would like to touch on three areas in this proposed bill:

- 1. The creation of an electronic database.
- 2. The creation of a new form, increasing the documentation of personal information, and
- 3. The mandated meeting with designated healthcare professionals.

These three items are proposed to replace or add to an already established system. This new bill amends four existing sections, introduces two new sections, and over 30 new subsections to further increase the size of our government.

Our current laws now include an Immunization Record to be documented by the Board of Education, a summary report to be provided by the Board of Education to the Director of Health and the requirement for a written statement for exceptions. As described in the current law, these forms are already standardized, as they are to be prescribed by the Director of Health.

The introduction of an entirely new section to develop a form, plus what the form must contain line-by-line is outrageous. Where is Ohio going, when bills are introduced to dictate every detail and action of daily life. In addition, the more information that is required, the risk of violating medical privacy only increases.

A summary report is also currently required by today's laws; therefore, there is no place for the burdening language as included in this bill. Furthermore, the summarizing and reporting of individuals who have not been immunized based on two separate categories is grossly unnecessary. How would this specific information be used to better serve the population of Ohio, other than further segregating individuals and targeting religious freedoms?

Plus, the requirement for the parent or guardian to schedule and attend an appointment with a designated healthcare professional, is a violation of Section 21 of the Ohio Bill of Rights

(Preservation of the Freedom to Choose Health Care and Health Care Coverage). Forced acceptance of for-profit consultation from any professional has no place in Ohio law.

A new form, more personal information, new databases, mandated healthcare visits and forced signatures. Layers upon layers of rules and regulations. This bill clearly represents big government. Dissolving the lines between education, healthcare and religion.

I ask you to oppose HB 559, to maintain our existing laws, to maintain our freedom of healthcare, and to limit the growth of our government. Please help to keep Ohio great, and not be overburdened by unnecessary laws.