

Date 05/23/18

Testimony of Jamie Rathod

Ohio House Health Committee
House Bill 559 - Opposition to proposed changes to immunization
exemptions and tracking processes

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, and
honorable members of the Health Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to provide opponent testimony for House Bill 559. My name is Jamie Rathod and I'm the mother of a vaccine injured child. I like every parent was told that vaccines are safe and effective and that they are an absolute necessity to the health and well-being of our child. I never questioned this otherwise until my son lost his health due to this very practice. My concern with HB599 is that if this bill is truly about record tracking and reporting vaccination rates per school shouldn't this bill be directed towards the schools and the Department of Health and not parents?

Schools have always been required to gather vaccine records and report those statistics to the Board of Health. Every year we as parents are required to submit vaccination records along with a signed health evaluation from our physician, indicating that our children have received a medical evaluation and are in good health. This also includes a hearing vision test along with a dental form from their dentist indicating dates of service and what routine care was provided. Parents who opt out of vaccination are required to fill out an additional form indicating their reason for opting out.

HB559 states that the reason for this bill is to provide better tracking, adding a clause that states parents still have the right to opt out but must participate in a conversation with an "assigned" physician to be educated on the pros and cons of vaccination, however nowhere in the bill does it state that vaccine exemptions will be signed or even honored.