

Testimony of Tina M. Wise, BS, RPh

In Opposition to House Bill 559

Submitted to Ohio House Health Committee

May 23, 2018

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Health Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to House Bill 559, a bill that clearly violates the constitutional rights and religious freedoms of Ohio citizens.

My name is Tina Wise. I have been an active Ohio-licensed pharmacist for more than 25 years. During my training, I completed a U.S. Public Health Service internship at the Food and Drug Administration, where I researched drug bioavailability data at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. Upon coming to Ohio, I provided pharmacy services through an oncology pharmacy within an acute care hospital and, while there, I presented on recent advancements in immunotherapy at their cancer symposium. For the last 19 years, I have been a full-time pediatric hospital pharmacist, where I spend a large portion of my time focused on the safe and accurate compounding and dispensing of sterile and non-sterile products for our inpatient population. I am also a wife and a mother of two adult sons.

Years ago, I believed that vaccination was the best way to prevent disease, especially those that I had been taught to fear from past generations. Back then, I felt well-educated on the topic and even gave a presentation promoting “Childhood Immunizations” to a local pharmacy group. Having full confidence in the safety and efficacy of vaccines, I gave both my boys all the recommended ones according to our pediatrician. At that time, there were a lot less vaccines than now, and no noticeable controversy seemed to exist on the topic. “Vaccines were safe and effective and saved lives.” No further discussion needed.

That was until my younger son Nathan received a combination of vaccines at his one-year checkup. Prior to this, Nathan was a happy baby with smiles and bright eyes, but within hours of receiving these, he experienced spiking fevers and began an inconsolable high-pitched scream like I had never heard before. I was reassured by our pediatrician that all was “normal” and “he’ll be fine.” So despite witnessing this firsthand, I disregarded my intuition and Nathan received another round of shots 3 months later. Following another intense reaction, no longer could anyone convince me that some type of damage was not occurring. No longer could I justify inflicting harm upon my own child in an effort to protect him from some acute illness that I feared and one that he may or may not ever face in his future. Nathan would never receive another vaccine. Ultimately, my son would be diagnosed with a lifelong disability. He is now 20.

The years that followed would cause me to face some **uncomfortable truths** that I had not been taught in college or taken the time to research. The main fact that disturbed me back then, as it does now, is that some school-entry **vaccines are manufactured using aborted fetal cells**¹. As a lifelong Catholic, I had to accept the reality that I had unknowingly allowed biological products to be given to my sons that struck at the very core of my religious principles.

Plus, one only needs to read VAERS reports (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System²) or compensated injury cases³ to understand how damaging these products can be, all stemming from a multibillion dollar **industry that holds no product liability** and places the **financial burden for these injuries on the taxpayer**. But perhaps what is the saddest of all is that well-intentioned healthcare professionals are not trained to recognize and therefore do not report these injuries or even inform the parents about the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.³ The injury seems to always be attributed to anything else but the vaccine, even though these products clearly contain unsafe levels of harmful ingredients - most notably injectable aluminum, a recognized neurotoxin that has been linked to neurodevelopmental disorders and Alzheimer's.

Sadly, there also appears to be a general misunderstanding about vaccine effectiveness and the outcome on the recipient and those in close proximity. For instance, those individuals who have recently received a live virus vaccine can shed the virus for 7 to 28 days following vaccination and put nearby immunocompromised children at greater risk for infection. And contrary to "opinion," studies show that those vaccinated with the pertussis vaccine tend to colonize the bacteria in their respiratory tract and are therefore unaware that they are silent carriers of the illness-causing "bug." Advancements in our knowledge of immunotherapy no longer fit with the outdated "one-size-fits-all" medical narrative of "herd immunity" that began two centuries ago.

In light of all this, one can certainly see why some Ohio parents, like me, may not subscribe to vaccines for their children for conscientious or religious reasons. This minority group has the full backing of the Ohio Constitution⁴ and cannot be compelled to participate, directly or indirectly, within any one particular healthcare system. This encroachment on our constitutional rights is nothing more than discrimination and oppression by those who stand to gain direct financial benefit, and it literally mandates Ohioans to endure intimidation about unwanted medical procedures that violate their conscience or religious beliefs. Shouldn't those informed consent, risk-versus-benefit consultations, a tenet of ethical medicine, be required only for those who are actively seeking out those medical procedures?

Current Ohio law is clear as to what is required of parents to opt out of school-entry vaccinations.⁵ This information is already submitted to each child's school, and vaccination rates are already reported to the Ohio Department of Health and have even been publicized.⁶ At the end of the day, parents must maintain the free right to opt out of certain vaccines, or all vaccines, without violation of their constitutional rights and religious freedoms by forcing them to arrange and/or pay for an appointment to be instructed by and require the signature of a state-designated healthcare provider. HB559 is discriminatory, targets a minority group, undermines parental rights, and is nothing more than a marketing tool to guarantee business and profits for a special interest group. I urge you to withdraw HB559 from consideration and let Ohioans continue to live according to their own conscience without interference and the burden of such a law. I respectfully thank you for your time, and I will try to answer any questions you may have.

¹<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/b/excipient-table-2.pdf>

²<https://vaers.hhs.gov/>

³<https://www.hrsa.gov/vaccine-compensation/index.html>

⁴<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/laws/ohio-constitution> (Article I.07 and Article I.21)

⁵<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3313.671>

⁶<https://www.mydaytondailynews.com/data/news/ohio-student-vaccinations/>