



Ohio Children's Hospital Association  
Saving, protecting and enhancing children's lives



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Monday, June 7, 2021

To: Members of the Ohio House Health Committee  
 Re: HB 248-11

Dear Ohio House Health Committee,

As organizations representing 1.7 million+ Ohioans, we are gravely concerned by HB 248-11, legislation that **puts ALL Ohioans, including children, at risk**. Among us are physicians, nurses, health commissioners, hospitals and business owners, who feel moved to firmly voice our shared concerns. At its core, this proposal would **destroy our current public health framework that prevents outbreaks of potentially lethal diseases, threaten the stability of our economy as it recovers from a devastating pandemic, and jeopardize the way we live, learn, work and celebrate life**.

The legislature has heard that this bill's purpose is to prevent the COVID-19 vaccine from becoming mandatory, but HB 248-11 applies to ALL immunizations, including childhood vaccines. If passed, **this legislation has the potential to reverse decades of immunity from life-threatening, but vaccine-preventable diseases** such as measles, mumps, hepatitis, meningitis and polio. In fact, the words "COVID-19" or "coronavirus" are not found anywhere in the bill.

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This legislation would also take away the rights of individuals who have businesses in Ohio to implement important safety measures meant to protect their employees, clients, and others. Many businesses have seen enormous fallout as a result of the pandemic and are working to rebuild and move forward. Business owners should each retain the right to carefully evaluate the unique circumstances they face and make their own determinations about what is best for keeping the workplace healthy and their overall recovery.

**As current Ohio law allows for school immunization exemptions to decline vaccinations for medical, religious, or reasons of conscience (known as the philosophical exemption), and most businesses allow for flexibility in regard to vaccinations, we question the need for HB 248-11.** This overly broad proposal would further strip away accountability and compassion for our fellow Ohioans, and cause severe disruption to our state's health, economy, and way of life. **It is our urgent plea that HB 248-11 be rejected, to protect the vitality of Ohio's children and families and avoid disastrous consequences for the future of our state.**

Respectfully,

**Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati**

Akron Children's Hospital

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc.

American College of Emergency Physicians

American College of Physicians

American College of Surgeons - Ohio

Anthem

Arthritis Foundation

Association of Ohio Health Commissioners

BASA – Ohio's Superintendent Association

**Bio Ohio**

Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)

Buckeye Health Plan

**CancerCare**

**CardinalHealth**

**Center for Dignity in Healthcare for People with Disabilities**

**Central Ohio Primary Care Physicians**

Charitable Healthcare Network

Children's Defense Fund

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

**Cleveland Clinic**

Columbus Medical Association

**Columbus Partnership**

**Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce**

Dayton Children's Hospital

**Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association**

Groundwork Ohio

Immunize Ohio

Medical Group Management Association

Molina Healthcare

**Montgomery County Medical Society**

**Mount Carmel Health System**

**National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners**

**National Patient Advocate Foundation**

Nationwide Children's Hospital

**National Hispanic Medical Association**

Ohio Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics

Ohio Academy of Family Physicians

Ohio Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs

Ohio American College of Emergency Physicians

Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses

Ohio Association of Community Health Centers

Ohio Association of Child Care Providers

**Ohio Association of Community Health Centers**

Ohio Association of Health Plans

Ohio Association of Rheumatology

Ohio Association of School Nurses

**Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators**

**Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators**

Ohio Business Roundtable

OCALI

Ohio Chamber of Commerce

Ohio Chapter – American College of Cardiology

Ohio Children's Hospital Association

**Ohio College Health Association**

**Ohio Counseling Association**

Ohio Coroners Association

Ohio Counseling Association

Ohio Dermatological Association

Ohio Health Care Association

Ohio Health

Ohio Hematology Oncology Society

Ohio Hospital Association

Ohio Manufacturers' Association

Ohio Nurses Association

Ohio Orthopaedic Society

Ohio Osteopathic Association

Ohio Pharmacists Association

Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association

**Ohio Public Health Association**

Ohio Society of Pathologists

**Ohio Society for Respiratory Care**

Ohio State Coroners Association

Ohio State Medical Association

**Premier Health**

ProMedica Russell J. Ebeid Children's Hospital

**Retire Safe**

SummaCare

The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio

**The Aids Institute**

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

**The Ohio Foot & Ankle Medical Association**

**The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center**

**Triage Cancer**

**TriHealth**

UC Health

UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital

**University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities**