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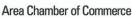




Cleveland Clinic



















Columbus Medical Association





Inspiring Change for People with Disabilities









University Hospitals





of Pediatrics





buckeye

health plan.















AMCNO





















Arthritis











CHAPTER



















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 <u>ALL</u> 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

Cancer Care

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