

# HB 248-11: Legislation that puts ALL Ohio children at risk both now and in the future

## What Does HB 248-11 Really Do?

- This broad legislation applies to any and all childhood vaccines. It prohibits any entity from requiring or requesting any vaccine information. Schools and childcare would not be able to request nor could any parent submit whether children are vaccinated or not.
- The bill prohibits employers (including hospitals) from requiring masks in any situation, including isolation. Requiring a mask to keep patients safe would subject the employer to penalties and a civil cause of action.
- It also prohibits any entity (including businesses, schools, childcare facilities, universities and hospitals) from requesting any vaccine status (including childhood vaccines and tuberculosis) as a prerequisite for entry or employment.
- It prevents an entity from maintaining a record of vaccination for children which would be necessary to reduce exposure should an outbreak of a communicable disease occur.

## Our Position

- This legislation will destroy our current public health framework that prevents outbreaks of potentially lethal diseases. It removes a key motivating factor for parents to take children to see their health care provider – which will have catastrophic, long-term effects on both the mental and physical health of children and adolescents.
- Physicians, nurses, health commissioners, hospitals and business owners in your district are requesting that HB 248-11 not advance in order to preserve the health of Ohio's children and our state's future workforce and health outcomes.

## Why We are Opposed to HB 248-11

- The bill would apply to all vaccines, not just the COVID-19 or Flu vaccine (of note: the COVID-19 vaccine is currently entirely optional).
- Ohio's current law allows for parental/personal choice. Currently, Ohio law allows for parents to opt out of any or all vaccines for medical reasons, religious or philosophical beliefs, which is considered a very lenient approach in comparison to other states. Most states do not allow for philosophical belief exemptions, unlike Ohio.
- Ohio's vaccine rates are already among the lowest in the US. Low vaccination rates put all children at risk, including those who are immune-compromised and/or may not have the opportunity to receive life-saving protection from immunizations (such as newborns and infants).
- The bill creates a disincentive for parents to maintain their child's health through routine provider well-visits.
  - Since childcare and schools require information about which vaccines children have received, the family sees their health care provider to maintain vaccinations and document their child's immunization records.
  - Aside from vaccines alone, these visits support the overall health of the children through observation, developmental screenings and conversations with their health care provider, including mental and behavioral health screenings for issues such as suicide, substance abuse and more.
  - This bill removes all ability for Ohio's public health system to track information critical to preventing outbreaks of contagious diseases found in other parts of the world, including measles, hepatitis, rotavirus and meningitis.
- Vaccines are safe and effective, but only if the majority of Ohioans get them. Since this bill will dramatically reduce childhood vaccinations, we will likely experience regular outbreaks of potentially lethal yet preventable diseases, similar to COVID-19 pandemic. This threatens not only the health of all Ohioans, but our economy and way of life.
- In 2014, Ohio experienced the largest outbreak of the measles in the U.S. in 20 years. 383 cases occurred primarily among unvaccinated Amish communities in Ohio, when a member of that community traveled to an area of the Philippines experiencing a large measles outbreak. Amish were under-vaccinated against measles, and this required a large vaccine campaign to control the outbreak in Ohio.
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