



# Columbus Medical Association

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Dear Central Ohio Members of the Ohio House of Representatives:

It is our understanding that there is a Discharge Petition effort to bring House Bill 248 directly to the floor of the Ohio House of Representatives.

The physicians of Columbus Medical Association Public Policy Committee ask your opposition to this Discharge Petition.

From a medical perspective, the evidence on vaccines is consistent and clear. Everyone who can be vaccinated should be vaccinated. The underlying science and medical experience of hundreds of millions of patients is clear – COVID-19 vaccines work to protect patients from illness and death.

It is undeniable that the vast majority of severe COVID-19 cases overwhelming our communities and hospitals are occurring in unvaccinated individuals. The vaccines work, just as other vaccines have prevented much suffering from measles, polio, and other infectious diseases. Vaccination as the primary way to put the COVID-19 pandemic behind us, avoid the continuing battles over more stringent public health measures, and achieve a return to some level of normalcy that we all seek.

As medical professionals, we support vaccination for our patients; additionally, we support required vaccination for ourselves and all associates of healthcare organizations. There is an ethical commitment of all health care workers to prioritize patients' needs and take all steps necessary to ensure their health and well-being. Vaccination is a logical requirement for those of us who choose to work in healthcare.

A successful discharge petition would promote legislation that we see as a clear detriment to good health policy for patients, it will contribute to disruption in society due to increasing the likelihood of the pandemic's impacts and it infringes on the rights of healthcare employers to establish work rules that can protect their patients.

We ask your opposition to the discharge petition for HB 248 and are happy to work to answer any questions that you might have.

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