



March 24, 2022

Kentucky Senate
702 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601

Re: House Bill 28, AN ACT relating to immunization disclosure

Dear Member of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee:

During the 2022 legislative session, several pieces of legislation have been filed pertaining to immunization and vaccination status. One such bill is House Bill (HB) 28, which is currently in possession of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee. HB 28 does several things:

1. Restricts the state or any local government/public entity in Kentucky from requiring their employees or applicants to disclose their immunization status against Covid-19 or any variants thereof, as a condition of employment. Further, it creates a civil action for employees or applicants to bring against a public entity or the state of Kentucky for any violations.
2. Restricts Kentucky's public universities and colleges from requiring staff or students to disclose their Covid-19 immunization status as a condition of employment or attendance and requires the appropriate governing state agencies to ensure that public universities and colleges comply. If a public university or college is found to not be in compliance, such entities will be ineligible for state grants, ineligible to enter contracts that are payable with state funds, and the state may deny the respective public college or university the authorization for operation.
3. Provides parents or guardians the ability to object to their child receiving the Covid-19 vaccination by way of a written sworn statement solely based on a conscientiously held belief.

On behalf of the Kentucky Medical Association (KMA) and its physician and medical student members, I write to state our opposition to HB 28, particularly for allowing someone to refuse a licensed vaccine solely because of conscientious objection or conscientiously held beliefs.

The role that licensed vaccines play in promoting public health has been and continues to be invaluable. Vaccines in current use have been successful as well as cost effective in mitigating serious and lethal illnesses and disabilities, particularly in children. In fact, Kentucky's disease rates remain low due to the success of the state's vaccination efforts. KMA policy, as established by the organization's physician members, holds that any laws or regulations that result in impairing the effectiveness of those efforts, including non-medical exemptions, will endanger the health of all individuals, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, due to an increased likelihood of disease, disability, or death from vaccine preventable diseases. Furthermore, KMA supports the immunization recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for all individuals without medical contraindications as well as public education efforts to address vaccine hesitancy and refusal, which the Association continues to pursue.

For these reasons and the critical nature of this issue, KMA encourages you to join physicians across the Commonwealth in opposing HB 28. If you should have any questions regarding this legislation, please

contact Cory Meadows, KMA Deputy Executive Vice President, at (502) 814-1392 or via email at meadows@kyma.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick T. Padgett", with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Patrick T. Padgett
Executive Vice President
Kentucky Medical Association