



1400 Crystal Drive  
Suite 900  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Phone: 202/789-1890  
Fax: 202/789-1899  
[apicinfo@apic.org](mailto:apicinfo@apic.org)  
[www.apic.org](http://www.apic.org)

September 11, 2017

The Honorable Ron Young  
Chair, House Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee  
77 S. High Street  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Young:

On behalf of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), **I am writing to respectfully urge you to oppose H.B. 193.** As a multidisciplinary organization dedicated to creating a safer world through the prevention of infection, APIC represents more than 15,000 infection preventionists and epidemiologists including 527 members in Ohio. APIC believes mandatory annual influenza vaccinations for healthcare personnel are an important method for preventing transmission of influenza to patients, especially those at high risk.

Influenza is a serious disease that results in more than 200,000 hospital admissions and is associated with high rates of morbidity and mortality.<sup>1</sup> Due to their exposure to patients, healthcare personnel have an increased risk for acquiring influenza. Conversely, patients who are at greatest risk of developing severe complications of influenza are themselves more likely to be exposed through contact with healthcare personnel. Therefore, one of the most important strategies to decrease influenza transmission to or from high risk persons is to immunize healthcare personnel.

The influenza vaccine is effective, cost efficient, and successful in reducing morbidity and mortality. However, evidence demonstrates that the current policies of recommending vaccinations have not been effective in achieving acceptable vaccination rates. Mandatory vaccination policies have proven successful in many ways including:

- multifaceted mandatory influenza vaccination programs have been found to be the single most effective strategy to increase healthcare personnel vaccination rates, with multiple facilities and systems achieving vaccination coverage of more than 95%;<sup>2</sup>
- several studies demonstrate that healthcare personnel influenza vaccination reduces patient mortality;<sup>3</sup>
- institutions that have implemented a mandatory policy have dramatically reduced employee absenteeism as well as healthcare-associated influenza, thereby improving patient safety and reducing healthcare costs;<sup>4</sup> and
- influenza vaccines are safe. The most common side effects of the injectable vaccine include temporary soreness, redness, or swelling at the site of injection.<sup>5</sup>



I respectfully request you oppose H.B. 193 to protect patients and healthcare providers in Ohio. Thank you for your time and please let me know if you have any questions or would like more information on this matter by contacting me at [legislation@apic.org](mailto:legislation@apic.org).

Sincerely,

*Linda R. Greene RN, MPS, CIC, FAPIC*

Linda Greene, RN, MPS, CIC, FAPIC  
2017 APIC President

<sup>1</sup> William W. Thompson, PhD; David K. Shay, MD, MPH; Eric Weintraub, MPH; et al. Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations in the United States. JAMA. 2004;292(11):1333-1340. doi:10.1001/jama.292.11.1333.

<sup>2-3</sup> Talbot TR, Dellit TH, Hebden J, Sama D, Cuny J. Factors associated with increased healthcare worker influenza vaccination rates: results from a national survey of university hospitals and medical centers. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol 2010;31(5):456-462.

<sup>4</sup> Poland, GA. Mandating influenza vaccination for health care workers: Putting patients and professional ethics over personal preference. Vaccine 2010;28:5757-5759.

<sup>5</sup> Belshe RB, Nichol KL, Black SB, Shinefield H, Cordova J, Walker J, et al. Safety, efficacy, and effectiveness of live, attenuated, cold-adapted influenza vaccine in an indicated population aged 5-49 Years. Clin Infect Dis 2004;39:920-927.