

Optional Points to Add to HB 248 Testimony:

Vaccines Save Lives

- UNICEF reports that the lives of an [estimated 20 million children worldwide were saved by measles vaccinations between 2000 and 2016](#).
- [Polio cases worldwide have rapidly declined by over 99.9%](#) in just over 30 years due largely to vaccinations.
- A study published earlier this year found that [an estimated 69 million lives will be saved by vaccinations against 10 major pathogens between 2000 and 2030](#).
- Just two years ago, the World Health Organization (WHO) listed [vaccine hesitancy as one of the greatest threats to global and public health](#).
- The American Journal of Managed Care reported in 2019 that each year, the U.S. spends almost \$27 billion [to treat diseases that could have been prevented by vaccinations](#).

Vaccines are Safe

Because many infectious diseases are now much rarer due to vaccinations, the public hears less about the devastation of those diseases. Perhaps they are more likely to hear about perceived risks related to vaccines than the suffering caused by those diseases vaccines protect us from. The reality is, our country is fortunate to have access to [safe, effective vaccines](#), which have been effectively saving lives for many years.

- A wealth of evidence shows that for the vast majority of people, the benefits of vaccination far outweigh the negligible risk. All vaccines go through [rigorous trials and safety tests](#) before they are released to the public for use, and are monitored for years afterward to ensure quality and safety, and to carefully review any potential, but overall rare adverse events.

COVID-19 Vaccine Safety

- Before being approved for emergency use, all three COVID-19 vaccines were subjected to [comprehensive testing and clinical trials](#), and severe adverse side effects are overall extremely rare.
- There is no evidence to suggest mRNA COVID-19 vaccinations have a negative impact upon individuals who are pregnant or [upon fertility](#).
- Vaccinated and breastfeeding mothers [have been found to pass COVID-19 antibodies to their infants](#).
- The [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends COVID-19 vaccination of all eligible people](#) who are pregnant or may consider pregnancy in the future.