

Chairman Young, Vice Chair DeVitis, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on House Bill 193.

My name is Heather Coy, and I am an Ohio attorney.

I have just a few points to make about HB 193. First, I would like to congratulate Representative Hagan for introducing this bill. At a time when many other states are stripping people of the right to medical freedom, Ohio is introducing a bill to support and enforce that freedom to make medical decisions. I am impressed and proud that our state stands with an individual's choice for health privacy and liberty.

Second, a few comments about the flu vaccine. The flu shot currently stands as the most compensated vaccine in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation program. Reports from the CDC tell us that in 2015, the flu shot was 19% effective. In addition, the flu shot is one of the vaccinations that still contains the neurotoxin mercury. Some of the possible complications from flu vaccines include anaphylactic reactions and the onset of Guillain-Barre syndrome. Guillain Barre Syndrome is a disabling neurological disorder involving temporary or permanent paralysis that may lead to death and has been causally related to influenza vaccinations. As of November 2013, there have been more than 93,000 reports of reactions, hospitalizations, injuries and deaths following influenza vaccinations made to the federal Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System, including 1,080 related deaths and over 1,700 cases of GBS. Where there is a risk of such severe complications, there must be a choice. We should not force a medical procedure with less than a 20% effectiveness rate and the risk of severe, life-altering complications.

Finally, this is an issue of medical freedom. Every employee deserves the right to make medical decisions with his or her healthcare provider -- not their employer. A person's doctor is better equipped to help that individual make the decision, and when that decision is made, it should be private. I would like to point out that we have persons with HIV who are given the right to medical privacy, but a healthy person who refuses an invasive, ineffective procedure, is subject to losing his or her job over

that refusal. Please, join Representative Hagan in protecting Ohio's employees from discriminatory treatment regarding their medical history and choices.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Heather J. Coy, Esq.