

Chairman Young, Vice Chair DeVitis, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee, I am submitting written testimony in support of HB193. I simply want to point to several disturbing stories that have been in the news over the last several years as examples of why HB193 is needed in Ohio.

Jean Mastin worked in the **billing department** at Akron City Hospital in Akron, Ohio. She kept herself healthy by eating well and stated how vitamin D and hand washing have been shown to be as effective as a flu shot. She was fired after 19 years of service for not getting a flu shot. In addition to her, **25 other employees** were fired for the same reason (<http://fox8.com/2013/01/09/fired-over-flu-shot-hospital-worker-shares-story/>).

Sakile Chenzira, a 58 year old woman and a longtime **customer service representative** at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, was a vegan and did not want any animal products (specifically egg protein) injected into her. She was fired for not getting a flu shot. (<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2013/01/17/ex-hospital-worker-sues-flu-shot.html>).

Karen Good, a **nurse** and practicing Christian, worked for **Coshocton County Memorial Hospital**. After obtaining a religious exemption from vaccination in 2012, she was **fired** the following year **even after she offered to wear a mask** while she worked (<http://archive.courthousenews.com/cnsnews/Story/Index/64255>).

One of Cincinnati's largest employers, **TriHealth**, **fired 150 employees** for not getting flu shots in 2012. Employees who were terminated were offered an appeals process to be reinstated, but that process began with verification of having received the flu shot (<http://www.fox19.com/story/20172971/trihealth-employees-fired-for-not-getting-flu-shot>).

These are only the personal life stories that made the news. I am sure you would agree that many, many more Ohio employees are being impacted and experiencing the same unjust mandates in their workplaces, but they are coerced into silence for fear of losing their jobs and ability to provide for their families.

Please help Ohio workers. Please pass HB193.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Maria DiBiase