

Mandi Wolfe, RN, FNP
Interested Party Sub House Bill 435
House Commerce and Labor Committee
October 6, 2021

Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and Honorable Members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee- thank you for considering my written testimony as an interested party of Sub HB 435:

I am a certified nurse practitioner who believes in medical autonomy, informed consent, and medical privacy. I advocated for my patients for decades, and now I am advocating for my fellow Ohioans. I am concerned about the protection of these aspects of our lives for all Ohioans and would like to see a codified law that prohibits vaccine mandates and protects medical privacy. We all have the fundamental and civil right to these medical freedoms.

Concerns with the bill as introduced are as follows:

- 1- This bill does not prevent Covid-19 vaccines mandates or protect medical privacy. It just provides for exemptions. This appears to be a violation of Constitutional rights afforded under Article 1, Section 21 of the Ohio Constitution.
- 2- Exemptions in the workplace apply only to current employees who are employed on or before the bill, if it passes and takes effect. No future protections are granted.
- 3- Exemptions do not apply to students or employees in children's hospitals, intensive care or critical care settings of a hospital. This neglects addressing the civil liberties of these professionals.
- 4- Exemptions in all setting expire in 2023.
- 5- Medical exemptions may be signed only by a primary care provider and not a specialist or other provider/practitioner.
- 6-Regarding natural immunity- there are no established standards to quantify this or any immunity level for anyone, regardless of vaccination status. Vaccinated immunity levels are scientifically shown to not be comparable to the immunity of natural immunity (with natural immunity levels often much greater and longer lasting).
- 7- No penalty for violations.
- 8- There is no language to address and prevent discrimination from employees seeking exemptions. Employers could place an employee seeking an exemption on unpaid leave.
- 9- Does not address discrimination in public accommodations such as shopping for groceries/medicines/basic needs.

I respectfully ask the legislative body to amend this problematic language in Sub HB 435 and protect all Ohioans. Thank you for your time.

Mandi Wolfe, FNP