

Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lapore-Hagan, and Honorable Members of the Commerce and Labor House Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide interested party testimony on HB 435.

While I appreciate the Legislators hearing the concerns of their constituents surrounding medical freedom, this bill does not protect our God given right to accept or refuse a pharmaceutical intervention. I am thoroughly confused as to why certain healthcare workers and new hires are not being offered any protections, or why there is a sunset clause of 2 years? There is no way to hold employers accountable if they decide to discriminate against the employees who have exemptions. This bill sets the groundwork for vaccine passports to take hold, while offering weak and temporary exemptions. There also appears to be nothing to protect consumers if businesses that offer public accommodations decide to discriminate against unvaccinated customers.

I am respectfully asking that the problematic language of this bill be amended to protect Ohioans right to accept or deny a pharmaceutical product, and ensure that they can not be discriminated against for exercising that right

Respectfully,
Audrey Stoffel