

October 5, 2021

Laurel Ljubi – Ohio Resident
Sub. H.B. 435 – Interested Party
House Commerce and Labor Committee

Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and honorable members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for considering my interested party testimony for HB 435.

Sub HB435 has completely missed the mark by allowing employers to mandate consumption of a pharmaceutical product, as well forced testing or masking if the product is declined by their employee. HB 435 would allow for workplace and even public discrimination and segregation. This bill essentially legally allows all employers (chocolate factories, restaurants, grocery stores etc.) to mandate medical procedures for their employees or customers. I would first and foremost like to see this legislation be amended to PREVENT VACCINE MANDATES. Additional issues I have with Sub HB 435 are outlined below.

Issues with Sub HB435

- Allows for vaccine mandates
- Sets the stage for vaccine passports
- Expiration of written exemptions
- Workplace discrimination
- No repercussions for workplaces that do not honor exemptions
- Ohioans could be prohibited from grocery shopping if they do not receive a pharmaceutical product and show proof to the grocery store.

This bill seems to emphasize what corporations and companies can do, but does not protect Ohioan's medical privacy or prevent discrimination based on personal medical choices. I urge this committee to amend this bill to better protect Ohioans, regular people who want to keep their job, to not be discriminated against for declining a medical product, or be unfairly subjected to additional mandated medical procedures (daily or weekly testing) or devices (masking), or be prohibited from doing in-person grocery shopping. The way this bill stands, I am fearful that I will be discriminated in the workplace, be unfairly treated, and be banned from doing regular every day activities, that I have lived my entire life doing. I would like to see legislation that preserves Ohioan's abilities to make medical decisions for themselves and prevents employers, schools, private and public institutions from implementing vaccine mandates. Thank you for reading my testimony and I hope the committee considers the issues I have outlined above and amends the bill to PREVENT VACCINE MANDATES.