

October 6, 2021
Camie McCorkle
Interested Party Testimony
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 the opportunity to provide written testimony as an interested party for Sub HB 435.

I am an Ohioan that wants to maintain freedom to work, get an education, buy and sell and travel in the state of Ohio independent of taking a COVID-19 vaccine. I work as a registered nurse and, except for being temporarily laid off for several months, due to low hospital census, I worked all of 2020 and all of this year without once becoming sick. Now I am being discriminated against and told I will not be able to work at that same hospital if I have not consumed a liability free pharmaceutical product even though the interventions that I use to maintain my health are working for me.

Health is determined by many factors and vaccine use is not the sole determining factor between health and illness. Vitamin D levels, stress levels, lifestyle choices, the gut microbiome influenced by the food we eat and sleep we get, past exposure to viruses -these all influence our immune response and susceptibility to infection and risk of hospitalization and death. There are some people that end up in the hospital with a diagnosis of COVID who otherwise would not be there if they had taken other preventative measures -for example, obesity has been acknowledged by the CDC as one of the highest risk factors for complications from COVID. I am not trying to force my preferred health interventions on anyone else or force anyone to go on a diet and lose weight or quit smoking -which if they did may prevent severe illness, hospitalization or death with a COVID diagnosis. Somehow though, it is seen as acceptable by some to use coercion and manipulation to force a COVID-19 vaccine on healthy people who do not want it – including some people, especially children and young adults, who are at higher risk of injury from the vaccine than from COVID.

Ohio needs a bill protecting medical freedom but, HB 435 is a weak bill and does not go far enough. It expires in 2023, does not prevent discrimination if you change jobs after the date it goes into effect, does not prevent discriminatory masking, testing and tracing, does not protect privacy, does not prevent vaccine passports being required to buy and sell, and does nothing to enforce that exemptions be honored, among other concerns.

I do not support HB 435 as it now stands. I support a bill that has all the same protections that HB 248 does. Americans should not have to take a pharmaceutical product and show proof of it to work and participate in society. I would like HB 248 passed into law or would like HB 435 amended to match HB 248.

Sincerely,

Camie McCorkle