



**Representative Al Cutrona**  
59<sup>th</sup> Ohio House District

Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 253.

Ohioans are more than welcome to take the COVID-19 vaccine for the health and well-being of themselves and others. However, a vaccine should not be mandated or required by our government for our people to integrate back to a sense of normalcy. We've had restrictions on our freedoms for over a year, and more restrictions or mandates are not the answer to every issue related to COVID-19.

I believe that this bill effectively addresses this type of government intrusion by ensuring that no individual shall be required to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 in order to enter the state of Ohio or any facility controlled, operated, or owned by a state agency.

Furthermore, as the Chief Operating Officer at an infectious disease practice in Mahoning County, I foresee privacy being a problem if a vaccine passport program is implemented. In March, New York became the first state to announce a vaccine passport program called "Excelsior Pass," which uses QR code technology to allow individuals into venues.

Information regarding an individual's COVID-19 vaccination status is confidential. In order to protect Ohioans' private health information, House Bill 253 bans tech companies from sharing or selling private health information through digital applications or scannable codes.

This bill will ensure that the liberties of all Ohioans are protected throughout this vaccination phase of the pandemic. I cannot stress enough its importance for protecting Ohioan's private information from getting into the wrong hands. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify, and I welcome any questions that you may have.