

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 248.

My name is Jessica Schumacher and I am a physical therapist assistant at a nursing home. I support House Bill 248 because I feel that my rights and freedoms are being stripped from me by my employer. My employer mandated the flu shot last year and recently mandated the covid vaccine, something I do not believe should have been done while it is under Emergency Use Authorization. There are no long-term studies of the vaccine and I feel it is putting all employees at an unknown risk. I was able to get an exemption because I am having fertility issues and my doctor did not feel comfortable with me taking an experimental vaccine. However, I can't help but feel like I had to choose between starting a family and my job that I have worked at for 8 years. That is not fair. I was told that when the other employees are able to remove their masks, I will have to continue wearing one. This is going to single me out and I fear that patients will not want me to treat them. My beliefs and my medical history should not be made public knowledge like that. All of the patients I work with had the right to choose whether or not to get vaccinated, why don't I have that same right?

Thank you once again for this opportunity to provide testimony on the need for and urgency of House Bill 248.

Sincerely,

Jessica Schumacher