

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 Wayne Lauer, a citizen in Delaware County that works in the information security field. I spent several years in the healthcare industry dealing with privacy, security, and HIPAA. I support this bill protecting Ohioans against discrimination based on vaccination status, and invasive vaccine mandates in both public and private entities. It not only protects an individual's right to make their own medical decisions regarding Covid 19, but it also protects against current employer vaccine mandates and any vaccine that could be mandated in a future pandemic. Ohio currently supports philosophical, religious, and medical vaccine exemptions for K-12 however, the legislature has never passed a bill that would allow the same freedom to college students and employees across the state. Ohioans are not currently protected if a private-sector employer requires a vaccine.

I am NOT a so called "anti-vaxer". My family and I have had all the normal/approved vaccines (pre-covid) to this point. In each instance we've done our own research and engaged our healthcare professionals and decided to move forward. It should continue to be an individual choice as to if getting ANY vaccine is the appropriate course of action.

Business mandates or "vaccine passports" infringe on an individual's right to make their own choices, it also violates individual's privacy and potentially allow discrimination against people. There are many people who are unable to get certain vaccines for various medical reasons. Passports would limit their ability to participate in society through no fault of their own.

In conclusion, I urge you to pass House Bill 248.

Sincerely,
Wayne Lauer