

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 April Byrne and I am mother to three children and a public school educator. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because I believe taking the Covid-19 vaccination should be a choice for all Americans and that that choice should not affect our rights to participate freely in activities. In addition, we should not be discriminated against for NOT being vaccinated. My children should not be forced to test or quarantine due to Covid-19 if they are not vaccinated. They should not be forced to wear masks if they are not vaccinated.

My husband and I have both been vaccinated but are not planning to vaccinate our children while the vaccines are still under EUA, and maybe even when they are fully approved. Due to our children's ages and their good health, and the fact that the vaccine is widely available to protect those who do choose it, it is our right as parents to hold off on this vaccine for our children. It is un-American to segregate people based on vaccination status, especially for a virus that causes symptoms that are largely mild for the vast majority of the population.

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

Sincerely,  
April Byrne