

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 Jason C. Horsman and I am a Software Engineer. I support House Bill 248 because Ohioans need protection for their freedom to make health care decisions for themselves, free from fear of discrimination from businesses and employers. Two of my friends have felt so much pressure from their jobs that they've gotten vaccinated simply because they feared that they would lose their jobs if they didn't. It's easy to see how this pressure will work already just in the CDC's masking policies that are now forcing people who are not vaccinated to continue wearing masks in stores, in workplaces, and in restaurants. That is an invasion of a person's privacy as it makes it very easy to tell who has chosen to be vaccinated and who hasn't. The President has even put out a short video on Twitter where he simply states "Get Vaxxed or wear a mask until you do." Pressure and policy will be coming from multiple different sources and House Bill 248 can provide Ohioans protection and confidence to continue to make their own health care decisions. The language of the bill should also stay general to all vaccinations and not specific to COVID-19 to provide protection in the future from any new virus or disease that would arise.

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

Sincerely,
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