

## Verbal HB 248 Proponent Testimony

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XXXXX Committee

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Chairman Wiggam, Vice-Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and Members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for inviting me to give proponent testimony for HB248.

I own a small business in Marysville. I'm concerned about what's happening in our state as it concerns the notion of bodily sovereignty. I have heard of some of our representatives backing down from supporting legislation like House Bill 248 because it appears to solve a problem that does not exist. On the surface, I would agree. On paper, there is legally and constitutionally no reason for a bill like this. Unfortunately, in real life there is a very urgent need if we are to remain a free people.

The laws protecting everyone from public accommodation at businesses have already been violated... I am hearing daily about businesses in our community that are planning to hire and fire based on vaccination status. This already has precedence in our medical spaces in regard to the flu vaccine. As a result, I would ask you to think on this question as you ponder how best to speak for your constituents... and in particular, the businesses in your districts.

Who owns our bodies?

If we recognize that our rights come from our creator, we must also recognize that our bodies do as well. Free will and sovereignty over our individual bodies is about as foundational as it gets then. As a business owner during the times we are living in, I continue to come back to this simple truth.

During the last year, our governor and a group of unelected citizens demanded that small business owners such as myself should take charge of the bodies of our employees and also our customers. The reason this occurred was two-fold. One- government did not have the constitutional authority to own the medical decisions of the average citizen so it couldn't pass laws or threaten legal ramifications around the desire for control and Two- we understand that businesses are in large part created, owned and operated by people, thus we tend to lend person-hood to business entities. The understanding that businesses should be able to choose how they run and who they serve (within reason) was used to advantage... pushing businesses to discriminate without penalty under written laws out of fear of lawless retribution.

So here we are. Businesses were forced into taking liberties with the rights of others and we've all crossed the line. I need to retain the right to run my business as I see fit and hire who I like, but there must be a line... if I have the right to hire and fire based on the medical decisions of my employees I take away their rights to their bodies. In a very specific way I am entering into a

contract with them that I “own” their bodies instead of them. If I demand that my customers undergo medical procedures, no matter the reason, as a condition to receive services, access to food, medical support, or utilities... I am entering into a contract with them that I “own” their bodies instead of them.

If I take ownership of the bodies of my customers and my employees by threat of force, exclusion from society, or loss of a means of supporting themselves this is nothing more than slavery. It is inappropriate control over the body of another. There has never been a good rationale for slavery in any culture, time or circumstance. Fear and the argument about safety has already been tried. Slavery is wrong, and we should surely know that by now.

As Americans, we need to retain the sovereignty of our bodies and the Free Will that was given to us by our creator, just as we were given our rights. This is already laid out in our laws, but unfortunately, those who wish to own the bodies of their customers and employees are trampling those laws not just with impunity, but as a result of governmental incitement. We need HB 248 to reassert those rights that we already possess and to stop the inevitable slide into a new form of slavery that we will usher in without it.