

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 Janel Usternul and I am a concerned citizen of Ohio, and the reason I support House Bill 248 is because I feel that every individual has the right to make their own medical decisions. I feel that whether to receive a vaccine or not should be each individual's choice and choosing the latter should not be met with threats, coercion, or discrimination of any kind. There are various reasons why individuals choose not to receive a vaccine, and these choices should be respected, as individuals continue to have autonomy to make decisions about their own medical care and treatment. I feel that so much is unknown about the effects of the Covid-19 vaccine, and to some individuals the risks outweigh the benefits. More information on long term effects may be needed for individuals to have all of the information necessary to make an informed medical decision. Based on this rationale, I feel that it is unethical to make people choose, for example, their job vs taking a vaccine that they do not feel is personally in their best interests to take.

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

Sincerely,

Janel Usternul