

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo and Members of the House Health Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of House Bill 248. My name is Katherine Zigmond, I live in Connecticut, and I have a son who attends college in Ohio. He was vaccine injured as an infant; because of that, I was told when he was in preschool that we may have to consider a group home for him some day. Through years of medical interventions, hard work, financial hardship, and most importantly, the grace of God, we recovered him from vaccine injury. He is now thriving in college with a double major and a 3.9 GPA. He should not have his education held hostage to vaccine mandates. He should not have to justify his and his families' medical decisions. We do the research, we consult with multiple medical professionals, and we make the best health care decisions for our family. We should not have to worry that our child could ever be discriminated against based on race, gender, religion, or medical history. The very idea of a vaccine passport is abhorrent.

It was hard for me to send my son multiple states and many hours away from home for college. Sending him to school in Ohio has provided him the best opportunity to learn, to be independent, to challenge himself, and to thrive. His education and future employment opportunities are at risk unless House Bill 248 passes.

Please protect my son and all residents of Ohio. Please VOTE YES ON HB248.

Thank you,

Katherine Zigmond

Connecticut