

To Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes

Ranking Member Russo and members of the House Health Committee,

I am writing as a proponent of HB248 and to request your support for this bill as well.

While I believe those who choose to be vaccinated should have the availability to do so, I also believe people should have the **choice to not be vaccinated**. There is no "one size fits all" approach in medicine. Each person responds differently to any given treatment, prescription, or vaccination. We need to provide protection for those who choose not to vaccinate, or are unable to for any reason, without fear of being discriminated against or lose their employment.

This legislation does just that. It **supports the protection and the rights of individuals to make medical and vaccine decisions for themselves and their families without fear of being discriminated against, or lose their employment** simply because they made a personal **Choice** for themselves and their family.

I believe in our constitution and bodily autonomy is an absolute right and a freedom that every individual deserves. People should be given the option to accept or decline something that may or may not align with their religious, personal, or health/medical beliefs.

What I'm asking is the **freedom of choice** for those that **CHOOSE NOT TO** or are **MEDICALLY UNABLE** to vaccinate. I would never try to restrict anyone that wants to get vaccinated or interfere with any other medical issues. I am simply asking that the same rights, liberties and freedoms be afforded to those who choose not to vaccinate.

Any form of "vaccination passport" is an absolute form of divisiveness and more importantly becomes blatant **DISCRIMINATION!**

With the current climate of employers mandating Covid vaccines. Businesses implementing vaccine passports, and those who decline facing discrimination, or termination. We must not allow government, schools and businesses to dictate personal medical decisions. And people should not be subjected to choosing between something they don't believe in, and their livelihood.

Just this weekend OSHA changed their stance on the liability of businesses that **REQUIRE** being vaccinated. They have basically given businesses a green light to **REQUIRE** the vaccine. They indicate "OSHA does not want to have the appearance of discouraging workers from receiving covid-19 vaccination and also does not wish to **DISINCENTIVISE** employers vaccination efforts". "As a result OSHA won't require employers to report side effects of covid-19 vaccinations until May, 2022."

I believe that passing this bill is more urgent than any other legislation the legislature is currently hearing.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Craig Ferguson

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