

My name is Melanie Keels and I live in Dayton, Ohio with my husband and our two children. I am writing this to express my full support of House Bill 248 for a few reasons, but my main concern is for my 4 and 7-year-old daughters. I feel that it is my duty as their mother to give them a voice, as long as they are too little to have one of their own. Our hope is that their privacy and medical information remain just that, private. Their father and I are the only two people that should have control over what goes into their bodies, and they should not be treated any differently because of it. These are life-long decisions that can have lasting effects and we should not allow this type of discrimination and/or segregation to exist. Every child should be able to attend school or any other activity without a label. Haven't our children already been through enough?

I also work in administration for a healthcare facility and I should not be discriminated against based on a personal medical decision. It is not anyone's business that I work with what I do or don't do with my body. It has never been an issue up until now, and to be honest I can't believe its even up for debate. We have exemptions in place for a reason, let's keep it that way by making these necessary revisions.

Thank you for taking the time to read my heartfelt concerns. I can only pray mine and my fellow Ohioans voices are heard.

Sincerely,

Melanie Keels