

*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 Deb LaTonzea and I am a local artist, wife, mom and concerned citizen. I am here to voice my support of House Bill 248. This bill will protect the privacy of individuals for body anatomy as well as protecting health information and decisions that could be used to discriminate against others. I am for freedom of choice of what goes into my body, my family members and other citizens who make different choices. In our family we have had vaccinations in the past and are not opposed to others who choose that path. 2 members of my family have auto immune disorders. After speaking with many health care professionals, we have decided now is not the time to introduce other treatments to our system. In doing so, we will now potentially face discrimination from school systems, as well as private and public businesses.

The idea that I live in a country that would mandate a vaccine to gain access to events and businesses not only shocks me, it crushes me. I love living in Ohio. My family and I take full advantage of all that this great state has to offer. Live music, sporting events, museums, Columbus Parks and Recs, State and Metro parks and one of the best library systems in the country. But now I and others are at risk of being denied these activities and treated like second class citizens for choices that everyone should be free to make.

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

Sincerely,

Deb LaTonzea