

Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, and Members of the House Committee on Health:

Medical error is the 3rd leading cause of death in the US according to John Hopkins 2016 report.

2.6 million people die worldwide every year from medical mistakes like misdiagnosis, improper medication and hospital acquired infections. Lancet September 2019.

Patient advocates say that in order to avoid becoming a medical error statistic, patients should be involved in their own care, seek a second opinion, and be a wise consumer of healthcare.

People have a variety of reasons for refusing vaccinations that can include medical, philosophical, religious and cultural reasons. Vaccines are not one size fits all. The government, employers, schools, and businesses should not be mandating a pharmaceutical product that carries the risk of death. No one disputes that vaccination could result in death or severe adverse reaction, the argument arises over the rate of these incidents. Even if severe adverse reactions are rare, one person's mandated vaccination could be another's forced lethal injection.

I support HB 248. We should not be requiring that people partake in a one size fits all injectable pharmaceutical product, or have to share private medical information in order to participate in society.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for HB 248.

Audrey Stoffel