

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 Valerie Henry and I am a Mother, business owner, and administrative assistant in Dayton, Ohio. I am writing to express my full support of House Bill 248 for several reasons.

I believe that every person has the divine right to make their own medical decisions and be in charge of what happens to their body/what is put in their body. I do not believe anyone should be discriminated against for their medical choices and beliefs. I truly believe in bodily autonomy for all persons – we should all have the right to make decisions about our own physical self.

As the mother of 3 children, I do not believe their medical information should be shared with anyone outside our family unless I choose to do so. In addition, I should be able to decline a vaccination for them without fear that my children will be segregated, denied services, be required to wear a facial covering or otherwise penalized financially or socially for declining a vaccination. The same goes for myself – the decision is mine and I should not be punished for what I decide to do with my body.

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

Sincerely,  
Valerie Henry