

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 Lee Parks and I am a medical sales representative. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because I cannot receive this vaccine due to religious and personal convictions. I am very concerned about being discriminated against at work because I will be one of the few that will not get it. I do not believe my vaccination status is my employer's or anyone else's business. I am also concerned that the doctors' offices and hospitals I visit while doing my job will require all contractors to have the covid vaccine. I understand some representatives may be hesitant telling a business what to do, but requiring an injection with a foreign substance inside one's body for employment crosses a very strong line.

As a black man with children, I am concerned about the targeting of minority communities that we have seen throughout the last 15 months. There is deep concern about the history of medical experimentation that has been pushed on minority populations. These include surgical experiments, pathogen and disease experiments including the Tuskegee experiment, radiation experiments, chemical experiments and pharmacological research.

Finally, I should never have to choose between my job or a medical procedure. Discrimination after making the choice should not be allowed in this great state either.

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

Sincerely,

Lee Parks