

Stan Stepak

152 Duff Drive

Avon Lake OH 44012

sstepak_rcostin@outlook.com

440.476.0234 phone

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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 Stan Stepak and I am a senior behavioral health specialist and I work with adults with developmental disabilities. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because I work with adults with developmental disabilities. From March of 2020 to February of 2021 I had to remotely work with these clients, not seeing them, sometimes not hearing their voice, who had negative behaviors as a result of not being able to go to their day or vocational work site or even senior program. These clients returned to day-program only after they had proved they were vaccinated. The problem is, they don't have the cognitive capabilities to make this decision. So the vaccine was forced upon them to enable their care. Without it they would have no care or quality of life. Many clients have not returned to day-program (like 60%) because they haven't taken the vaccine. This is reducing their quality of life. They are staying home and not engaging with other people they have been participating with. Their care is dependent upon their vaccination status. I cannot even go to their homes to care for them unless they have the vaccine. There are several buildings that I am unable to access because of policies. I cannot even observe or support the staff on how to work with individuals. My clients are missing beneficial, foundational blocks and opportunities to grow based upon an experimental vaccine status. This is without a vaccine passport. A vaccine

passport will eliminate even more possibilities for these individuals to participate in society because many don't have the vaccine.

As a father of four children, one already in college and three going to college. I fear they will not have the opportunity to vet the quality of education that I had as a result of not taking the vaccine and be limited in job oppty for not being able to go to the college of their choice to learn the skills for the career of their choice.

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

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stan Stepak', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Stan Stepak