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 Heidi Howard and I am a stay at home mom and the reason I support House Bill 248 is because people should not feel discriminated against for not wanting to receive a vaccine. I feel that people should be able to make decisions for themselves based on what they feel is best for themselves because we are the ones who know ourselves the best! I would hate for anyone to feel segregated because of a gut feeling that a vaccine isn't for them. As the Declaration of Independence states, the 3 unalienable rights are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The definition of Liberty is the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views.

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

Sincerely, Heidi Howard