

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 Karen Wirtz, I'm a mother, veteran, and small business owner.

I support House Bill 248 because it is important to protect the rights of Ohioans to decide for themselves whether or not they want to get the experimental Covid-19 vaccine or any vaccine. Before you label me anti-vax straight away, I would like to point out that to this point I am fully vaccinated. Additionally, I am a veteran and my husband is a retiree. My husband received an experimental vaccine - the Anthrax vaccine - and he now suffers from an auto-immune disorder because of that. People should never be forced to take a vaccine, especially an experimental one. Americans like us and many other veterans we know who suffered as a result of the experimental anthrax vaccine are cautious. We do not wish to be guinea pigs again. No one should ever have a medical procedure forced upon them. It's wrong, it's un-American, it's inhumane. Everyone should be protected from both public and private entities threatening their livelihoods and/or access to goods and services based on their medical condition. Finally, I would like to point out that the amount of shots required keeps increasing, side effects are real, and vaccinated people are getting infected with Covid-19. Protecting our freedoms to make medical decisions for our own bodies and keep our medical information private should be a top priority in a free country with free people.

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

Sincerely,
Karen Wirtz