

Dear Chairman Lipps,

I am writing in support of HB248, the Vaccine Choice & Anti-Discrimination Act. I am the employee of an Ohio private university, and a recent memo was released on June 1 indicating the following:

Unvaccinated individuals must continue to wear face masks covering the nose and mouth and practice appropriate social distancing while inside (unless they are alone in their enclosed office). Masks and social distancing are not required outdoors. *Unvaccinated individuals may not participate in travel for OWU-related purposes.*

In a follow-up conversation with my supervisor, I was informed that any off-campus recruitment cannot be paid for or reimbursed by the University, even though this is an essential expectation of all coaches. In addition, we will be required to be tested three times per week at our own expense. And ultimately we will have to provide our transportation at our own expense to travel to competitions where my teams are competing. Thus, I cannot travel to and from competitions with my student-athletes.

While this has become policy on my campus, I am sure similar policies are being created on other Ohio campuses that discriminate against employees who are reluctant to take a vaccine that is not even FDA approved.

You are welcome to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Thank you, Kris