

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 Ann Paulus and I am retired Project Manager and the reason I support House Bill 248 is that I do not want discrimination towards people who cannot or do not want to get a vaccination of an experimental, emergency use authorized medication. This is a supposed free country and free choice. Medical decision should be between a person and their doctor. That is why we have HIPPA privacy laws.

While COVID-19 is a bad virus, it is a virus and will probably be around forever as is the flu and colds. We have the ability to say no to a flu vaccine unless you are in the medical field which is questionable as well. Flu vaccines are hit and miss due to the multitude of variants so making anyone required to get a flu shot is crazy. I saw my father get a flu shot with a horrible reaction. Soon afterwards, he developed Shy-Drager's which is a degenerative neurological disorder affecting the body's involuntary functions and I watched him waste away until he passed.

I am for freedom of choice when it comes to medical decisions. People should not be discriminated for their choice – getting the vaccines or not. Some people should not get vaccines due to other medical issues. If a person is more comfortable with a shot, it is their right to do so. I am beginning to feel that “non-vaccinated” people will soon have to wear some symbol that they chose differently. For all these reasons, I am supporting House Bill 248.

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

Sincerely, Ann Paulus