

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 Ashley Hanna and I am a stay at home mother of 4 children. I support House Bill 248 because I believe all Ohioans (and Americans) should have a choice when it comes to their medical care, including vaccines.

Over this past year, I have home schooled our children while nursing a newborn. My plate was overflowing to say the least. I am by far not a teacher, but we made it through the school year. My children were not allowed to attend school because we do not believe in masks due to religious beliefs. Although, this bill is about our freedom to choose to vaccinate, I can make an educated guess that just like being denied entrance and participation in activities masked individuals were allowed to do, so will it happen in this instance. My family was denied proper education for our children, entrance to public accommodations (stores, amusement parks, etc.). We need to protect the individuals who choose not to vaccinate from being segregated and discriminated against. As Americans we are protected from this under the Constitution, but this is not being followed.

After our third child was born, he was having reactions to vaccines. He was always an easy baby, extremely happy, hardly cried unless he needed something. After receiving a vaccine he would get sick, was extremely irritable, and would cry non stop for weeks. I would try to comfort him and there was nothing that would soothe him. I would contact the doctor and they had no suggestions besides go to the emergency room. I decided to do research to see what was in the vaccines, how serious the viruses/diseases were, and weighing the pros and cons. It came to my attention that aborted fetal cells are in some vaccines which goes against my religious beliefs. We were never made aware of this and it is quite upsetting that this is not included in the informed consent. I believe if we continued vaccinating our third child we would have lost him or he could of been injured.

My husband is immune compromised and he can not have vaccines. This is listed right on the pamphlet from the medications he takes. My husband does have to wear a mask (even though it is against our religious beliefs) or he will be fired. Recently his job informed their employees they can take their masks off if they are vaccinated. My husband asked about this and they want a doctors note. From previous experiences many doctors are afraid to write notes because of the backlash the doctors speaking out are getting. Some doctors are not allowed to even write them. This is an example of my husband being discriminated against based off of our religious beliefs and medical reasons.

I have also contacted our local zoo to see if they could accommodate us without being discriminated against. They told me vaccinated individuals are allowed inside their facilities without a mask, but unvaccinated individuals have to wear a mask. I informed them that this is against my civil rights (ORC 4112) and religious beliefs. They told me they would check and get back with me. That was on May 19, 2021 and I have not heard back from them. I should not have to fight to be a free American. I am allowed to go into public accommodations without being discriminated against, segregated, harassed, or denied entrance. Unfortunately in Ohio this is happening.

The COVID-19 vaccine is not a FDA approved vaccine. It is emergency authorized. In my opinion, for a business, government, or any other person to demand someone get the vaccine or they can not participate or live like others who did receive the vaccine is absolutely absurd. We do not have enough scientific data to know if this is safe years into the future. There are no other vaccines on the market like it. We also need to consider that there are people who can not or will not get vaccines for various reasons. We should not treat these Ohioans different.

I am for Ohioans to choose their own health. Ohioans deserve full informed consent. I am not anti-vaccine. I am pro-choice. If someone wants to vaccinate themselves or their children, that is their right, as it is my right to deny putting vaccines into my or my childrens' bodies.

I ask you to please pass House Bill 248. Please protect Ohioans right to choose whether to be vaccinated or not, without being discriminated against, denied entrance, coerced, or denied living life freely.

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

Sincerely,
Ashley Hanna