

6217 Arapahoe Pl
Dublin, Ohio 43017
June 11, 2021

Dear Chairman Lipps:

This is my written testimony re HB 248. HB 248 is a misguided and dangerous bill which is far too broad and will leave Ohio vulnerable to epidemics for decades. It allows even long accepted vaccines to be refused by Ohioans; Ohioans already can decline vaccines for religious, medical or reasons of conscience. There is no reason to make it easier for vaccines to be declined. People who refuse vaccines, and refuse to vaccinate their children put vulnerable patients at risk. There needs to be more restriction on this, not less. For example, it has long been mandated that hospital staff receive the annual influenza vaccine. This is to protect patients from the staff infecting them; this has not stirred outrage or sparked a law forbidding this practice because it is good medicine. I question whether your lawmakers who are not medically educated have the expertise to make laws that affect all of us, and will cost lives. The appalling and inaccurate testimony of Dr. Tenpenny will serve to stir more vaccine hesitancy at a time when we cannot afford to have fewer people getting vaccinated for Covid 19. Ohio is not doing well in getting residents vaccinated, at 32nd in the nation. This vaccine is safe, and does not produce magnetism or other ill effects. We are extremely fortunate in the United States to have a free, safe, effective vaccine against a highly contagious pandemic. I practiced medicine in Ohio for over thirty years. I urge Ohio lawmakers to vote NO on this dangerous bill.

Debra L. Brinker, M.D.