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Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in opposition to House Bill 248. I am a small business childcare owner in Hamilton County, OH. Currently, I have the freedom to protect my children and other family members by requiring all children in my care to be vaccinated according to the CDC schedule.

HB248 would prohibit me from requiring or even requesting children be fully vaccinated, and I would no longer feel comfortable providing care in my home if it were to pass. I am active amongst childcare professionals in Cincinnati, who serve in various environments, including in the provider's home, in centers, and in the family's home. I know many feel the same way and would not feel comfortable providing care to families whose vaccination status is unknown. With the current shortage of affordable childcare in Ohio and the US, this would negatively impact families already struggling from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rep. Jennifer Gross noted this bill is about the "right to choose." I believe I should have the right to choose who I welcome into my home and how I run my business. I urge lawmakers to block HB248 from going any further in the law-making process.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration.
Kaitlyn Japikse