

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the House Health Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Abigail Drennen. I am a mother, wife, full-time worker and Ohioan (Akron). I am strongly opposed to House Bill 248, the anti-vaccination bill.

I have received vaccines my whole life. I am a perfectly healthy, normal adult woman. Both of my children are fully vaccinated and up to date with vaccines. They are happy, healthy (adorable) children. When the opportunity arose to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, I was first in line to receive it (or as first in line as possible). Why? Because vaccines keep people safe. They are scientifically proven to keep people safe. They've been around forever and have squashed out horrendous diseases that I hope NEVER make a resurgence.

Allowing this bill to proceed any farther than it already has is ludicrous. There are protections already in place in Ohio's laws that allow for individuals to decline vaccinations for medical, religious and reasons of conscience. It would allow for public health disasters unlike we've ever seen, reversing decades of immunity from life-threatening, but vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccines have kept us all safe for decades. Why would we turn back time on something as tried, tested and true as vaccines?

Bottom line: HB 248 threatens the health, safety and security of all Ohioans and could lead to dangerous and deadly outbreaks of preventable diseases.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote **NO** on this incredibly dangerous bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.