

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 Candice Ford and I am a registered nurse and the reason I support House Bill 248 is because as a registered nurse I advocate patient rights in regards to their healthcare decisions and provide excellent and proficient care to those patients without discrimination in regards to their personal decisions in regards to their health care. I, in return, wish to advocate for myself in regards to my health care decisions. I am making a decision to not receive the COVID19 vaccine due to my own personal beliefs. Though I am an employee, I am also considered a patient when making vaccine/healthcare decisions that impact myself and deserve the same respect and rights. Being an employee doesn't strip me of these rights. We are being denied informed consent. If facilities continue to mandate the COVID19 vaccine in order to maintain a job several things will happen: 1.) The patients will suffer. 2.) The remaining staff who have been already running low staff during this pandemic will be forced to work even lower staffed and in turn will leave the bedside. 3.) You will have a large group of healthcare workers who wish to give care to the sick who are not being allowed to perform their job because they wish to have the autonomy of making their own healthcare decisions.

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

Sincerely

Candice Ford RN