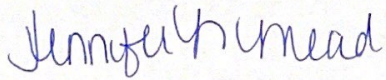


Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 248. My name is Jennifer Mead, and I am a public employee as well as self-employed. I am also the mother of a four-year-old boy and a wife of a first responder. The reason why I support House Bill 248 is because I believe that each person has a God-given right to choose for themselves what is best for their own health and should not be treated differently for their choices. I have been employed in both the public and private sectors since the age of 15. In all that time, I have never had to show proof of any type of vaccination or have been forced a vaccine against my will as a term of employment. Now that the COVID-19 “vaccine” is being recommended if not forced by more employers, I fear that if House Bill 248 is not passed, I will soon have to make a decision I never thought I would have to make. I will have to choose between providing for my family or take a vaccine against my own will. No person should ever be put in this position, but without House Bill 248, this will soon become a reality for most people. Not only do I fear for myself, but I also fear for the future of my son. While as parents, my husband and I have ensured that he is up to date on all his vaccinations, the COVID-19 “vaccine” is not one we will be giving him. It took us 10 years to get him, and we will not subject him to any type of vaccination that we feel so strongly against. As his parents, we have worked with his pediatrician (who is fantastic by the way), and she has always been supportive and informative regarding his vaccination schedule. Up until December of 2020, I don’t recall society ever being so concerned about whether a person is vaccinated or not. I have never had an employer, or a business owner inquire on whether I have had my MMR or HEP B shot. As a society we don’t do this because each person’s medical history is their own business and no one else’s. A person’s vaccination status should never be the business of an employer or the

government. We live in the United States of America, which is a free country and allows individuals to make their own decisions about their health including vaccination. No person should have to choose between getting a shot or being able to live their lives in society. We already have anti-discrimination laws in place in our country. It is time that we add vaccination status to this list.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer L. Mead". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

Jennifer L. Mead