

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 Katharine Dove. Before retirement, I was Director of Customer Service for Mercantile Stores, Cincinnati, OH. In retirement, I am the caregiver for my 79-year-old husband who has dementia. I also am responsible for the care of my 97-year-old mother.

The reason I support House Bill 248 is because after the last vaccine I had for the flu in 2019, I became seriously ill for three weeks. Up until that point, I had every vaccine recommended by my doctor – flu, pneumonia, shingles, etc. But after this serious reaction to a flu shot, I am hesitant to take vaccines. I strongly believe that my doctor and I are the only ones capable of determining which, if any, vaccines are appropriate for me.

Such an important decision must be my decision. I have three people to care for – my husband, my mother, and myself. I must be the one to have the choice in how I maintain my health so that I can maintain theirs. I choose a healthy diet and daily exercise to maintain my good health. I must also be able to choose what medicines are put into my body.

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

Sincerely,

Katharine Dove