

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 Leonie Jacob, and I am a physician, mother, and granddaughter of Holocaust survivors. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because as a physician, I believe in the principles of “first do no harm”, informed consent and patient-centered medicine. Allowing any element of society to coerce individuals to receive medical interventions that may not be appropriate for them so that they can fully participate in society deviates from best healthcare practices.

As a mother, I am becoming increasingly concerned that my children may not grow up in a world where they have the freedom to make the most personal of decisions, without external coercion, if we do not act to protect them now. And as a granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, I am only too personally aware of the horrors that can be unleashed when we allow certain groups in society to be discriminated against due to their being designated “disease-carriers”.

Please pass HB248 not only to preserve and protect the bodily autonomy and freedom of the individual but to protect the humanity and morality of our society.

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

Sincerely,

Leonie Jacob