

August 9, 2021

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony of House Bill 248.

My name is Stephanie Ernest, and the reason I support House Bill 248 is because I am a parent of a child who suffered a reaction to a vaccine, so I personally understand the side effects that can occur with vaccines. While I fully understand vaccines are valuable and can have positive impacts, there are also risks that come along with any medical intervention. As such, each individual must be educated on those risks and allowed to make an informed choice. Our personal health care choices should not be subject to public scrutiny or mandates. My child suffered a reaction to the Dtap vaccine, which has been available, tested and widely used for many years. The Covid vaccine has only been available for 6 months and has not gone through extensive testing to ensure no long-term negative impacts. How can we possibly force, coerce, bribe, and/or threaten someone's livelihood or education for a vaccine that hasn't been adequately tested and doesn't stop said person from contracting or spreading the virus. I urge you to support this bill and ensure our freedom of choice is protected.

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

Sincerely,

Stephanie Ernest