

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 Donna Burkholder. I am a former 40 year business owner in Ohio, now retired. I felt I needed to speak in support of HB248 for several reasons.

I have heard many representatives say they do not want to interfere in how an owner runs their business. If this is the case, what has been going on for the last 18 months? I don't believe I need to state all the mandates Ohio businesses were given. As a retired business owner, I have dealt with the government being involved in my business every day. So this is a poor excuse for anyone to use.

By allowing employers to mandate the vaccine, they are creating hostile workplaces. All medical procedures are a personal choice. We have become a society that is shaming people into making personal decisions. Mental health is at an all time high. Personally, I have daily conversations with my daughter who is almost constantly in tears. Oldest grandson is leaving for college. This should be an exciting time for us with the opportunities he has worked to achieve. Instead we are always discussing, Covid protocols & what could change, causing him to have to pull out of school. We should not be encouraging a 19 year old to withdraw from school but we are close to this being the only option we feel comfortable with. It is a constant discussion will the elementary school that the youngest goes to, mask or not mask. Will they be quarantined? Again, we are not discussing his education as we should be. Then her employer comes out with an email: "Submit vaccination status my August 23, 2021 or you must wear a mask. The information will be kept confidential and only be accessible to a limited number of HR employees & the leadership team." This is a roundabout way of disclosing everyone's vaccine statuses. Management will force the unvaccinated to mask. In my opinion, this just created a hostile workplace.

Our health care workers were heroes a year ago. Are we really going to force the people that we trusted our lives with out of their industry? Please support HB248.

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

Sincerely,



Donna J Burkholder