

July 22, 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 on House Bill 248.

My name is Laura Bolender and I am a health care worker and have been for most of my life as my father was an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon. I worked in his office as a teen and in my adult life. I support this bill for several reasons. I believe that all people have individual choices over their bodies, what vaccines we choose to take and what health related information we choose to share with others. People's choice of vaccines they elect to take should not be made public due to HIPAA and people should not be discriminated against for choosing to or not to take certain vaccines. Statistics show that less than 50% of health care workers have elected to take the Covid-19 "vaccine". I put this word in quotations as it is NOT a proven vaccine nor is it approved by the FDA except for emergency use only. People that elect to get this "vaccine" can still contract Covid and they can transmit Covid, so this alone does not meet the criteria to be a vaccine. The push for all people to be injected with this mRNA material is in itself for me to have great hesitation. Lots of information is coming out regarding the ill effects of this "vaccine" such as stroke, blood clots, shingles, cancers and vaccine regret. Knowing this material has to "trick" a persons' immune system to enter the body is of great concern and alarm. We also see information coming out regarding boosters, which makes no sense. We do not know the efficacy of this shot and to bring forth information regarding boosters is another alarm. We see information regarding the annual flu shot and its importance which again, is a very personal decision, but we do NOT see lotteries being held to get this shot, nor a free ride to college. These actions by politicians and law makers are another reason that brings me to pause about this "vaccine". Furthermore, as a Christian, I cannot accept having aborted fetal parts injected into my body. This is a moral issue for me and lots of other Christians as myself.

I have worked in healthcare most of my life especially as an adult, and no one should be discriminated against for their right to choose. The country is very divided and we need unity more than ever. We need to be able to continue to make choices based on our individual rights. The passing of this bill will ensure that health care workers that elect not to get the Covid "vaccine" can continue the work they set out as their career path and have worked so hard to obtain. I cannot imagine having to take this "vaccine" to continue my employment and then end up resenting the people that forced me to put myself at risk for other ill health effects. This bill will allow all people in the great state of Ohio to live and work together without their confidential healthcare information being the center of attention. This will also allow us to continue to live in our communities without being segregated and discriminated against by our neighbors and peers. Our students will be discriminated against as well in all schools if this bill does not pass. Covid-19 has brought forth a lot of reports of ill mental health effects, and this will put more of our Ohio residents at greater risk of discrimination which can lead to ill mental health effects such as suicide. Just look at the number of residents that took their own lives during the lockdowns that our governor Mike DeWine imposed with no clear authority.

I cannot imagine having my whole career and life turned upside down due to being discriminated against in the 21st century of the United States of America. If this bill does not pass, that is exactly what

will happen. We will not progress as free people but be tied by our wrists to discrimination and ostracization. I cannot imagine the redefined United States of America at that point. We would be remiss if we did not rename our beautiful nation the America of lost freedom. Or possibly America, land of the detained.

I thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony to you for the urgent passing of the Ohio Bill HB 248.

Sincerely,



Laura Bolender