

## Written Testimony: In support of House Bill 248

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

As a mother, wife, registered nurse of twenty one years, and most recently a college professor of higher education, I have many concerns about vaccination mandates. As a nurse, I upheld the patient's right to say "no," whether it was a drug, procedure, or anything placed inside their body. Vaccinations should not be coercive. In fact, it is a basic civil liberty to retain the right to refuse something that may become harmful to one's health. There are many individuals who have health, ethical, moral, religious, and logical reasons why they do not want to succumb to mandatory vaccination. The right to make an informed decision is paramount. How can we expect the general public to make an informed decision when the studies and statistics, including the media, are unclear and ever-changing? We need to protect our citizens, including our most vulnerable: young children, teens, the mentally challenged, and the elderly. We retain the right to refuse because we are the people of Ohio.

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

Sincerely,

Candace Kelly MFA, BSN, RN

