

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 Breannon Sheppard and I am a Registered Nurse. I support House Bill 248 because I support a bill maintaining vaccine choice and healthcare privacy.

My place of work recently mandated the COVID vaccine. If I do not comply, I will be terminated. I believe in one's right to choose. I do not support this vaccine and it goes against my wishes and my beliefs. Being a nurse is more than a career, it is a way of life. As a nurse, we are taught to treat patient's with dignity, respect, and to support the patient's right to choose the course of their medical treatments. I am asking to be treated in the same respect. I love being a nurse. I do not believe there is another career path out there for me. If I choose not to receive this vaccine, I will loose my house, I will not be able to feed my family, and I will be forced into a job in which I do not love. Being vaccinated or unvaccinated is my choice and it does not hinder the kind of care, compassion, kindness that I provide to my all of my patients. In the end, it is the patient's who will be the ones hurt the most by this mandate. It is my choice to vaccinate and I have a right to healthcare privacy.