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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 Paul Schmitt and I am a medical laboratory technician. I support House Bill 248.

I have been at my workplace for over 20 years. I have put a lot of time and effort into my career there and have helped the laboratory through some tough times while many other techs simply quit and left us severely understaffed.

Now they are requiring the COVID-19 vaccine. They have decided that it is the best interest of their employees and therefore in my best interest to get this shot. The word "require" is defined by Webster as "to claim or ask for by right and authority." What right or authority do they have? They are not my doctor. They are not my conscience. It is the right of every individual to decide for himself what medical treatment he will accept and whether the benefits of a medical treatment outweigh the undesirable side-effects and burdens. The state or employer has no right or authority to decide this for anybody nor to discriminate against anybody who does not agree with them.

Yet, after faithfully serving my employer for 20 plus years I risk being fired if I do not submit to this requirement. I will have to change fields since all area hospitals have mandated the same. That will be an enormous burden for me and my family. That is simply unjust. I don't want to get the COVID-19 vaccine for many reasons. My reasons are my business. And my healthcare is my business, period.

The passing of this bill would save thousands of jobs, and not only in the medical field.

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

Sincerely,


Paul Schmitt