

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 Erica and I am a healthcare worker. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because I feel strongly that we should have control over our own bodies. Every body is different and reacts to various foods, drugs and substances differently. There is no "one size fits all" approach in medicine and unfortunately not every body will react favorably to every treatment. This is why we need individualized care in every aspect of our health and wellness including vaccination. Should anyone have a reaction or side effect from these vaccines that would leave them unable to work or carry out daily activities there is nobody to hold responsible. The companies making these rushed vaccines have a history of lawsuits and unethical behavior so it is hard to feel confident in their safety. They also have no liability for any injuries or side effects and therefore anyone who experiences complications will have to bear the financial and physical consequences. I therefore believe it should be up to the individual to decide if the risk outweighs the benefit for their own body. If an individual chooses it is not worth the risk for them they should not be discriminated against. Being faced with losing your job over this basic human right is unimaginable. It is a form of bullying to force people into doing something solely because they cannot support themselves or their families without their job. Being closed out of society and refused services based on vaccination status is also extremely wrong and would be unacceptable if based on anything else like race, gender, sexual identity etc.

These vaccines do not have any long term data which is concerning. The only way to know if there are any long term side effects is to study them over time which has not been done. Gradually we're learning that even if you get the vaccine you can still contract the virus and spread it. So potentially the only benefit is that it may reduce your symptom severity. It should be up to the individual to decide if that benefit is worth the risk.

We've all lost enough over the last year and a half and it is unbearable to think about losing anything more. As healthcare workers we had to go to work everyday through the worst of the pandemic. Then we were told we were not getting our raises for that year because of lost revenue. They cancelled elective procedures in anticipation of the hospital being overwhelmed but that never happened. Now they are showing their appreciation by forcing their dedicated employees to get a product or else get terminated. We need protection from this behavior. Please support our right to choose what is done to our bodies. Healthcare professionals take medical freedom and privacy very seriously for our patients and only want the same for ourselves.

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

Sincerely,

Erica Parsley