

Greetings:

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the Health Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 248. My name is Eric Fudge, and I am a chaplain at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati.

The reason I support House Bill 248 is because I am a chaplain in a hospital who visits many patients and family members who are filled with anxiety over legislation that is mandating them to take the vaccine. Many of them are not against vaccination and understand the general statistics regarding death rates between those vaccinated and those not vaccinated. However, they express more concern about the vaccination possibly agitating preconceived conditions known or unknown. I also fall into this camp and empathize with their concerns. I, along with many other patients, family members, and hospital staff, have, furthermore, overcome COVID-19 and have naturally made antibodies for the virus. I contracted COVID-19 in December 2020, tested for antibodies Aug 9, 2021, and showed positive for antibodies. Additionally, I am seeing multiple patients who are fully vaccinated being hospitalized in my hospital and I have family members who were fully vaccinated and quarantined at home because of strong symptoms. Between the fact that the vaccine DOES NOT keep a person from contracting it or spreading it, I passionately believe that I, nor others like me, should be forced to take this injection of experimental genetic modification technology in order to function normally in Ohio society, especially when I already have antibodies that protected me very well over the past year when I entered patient rooms who were COVID-19 positive.

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

Blessings,
Eric Fudge, Ph.D., BCC Chaplain