

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB-248. My name is Nives Zimmermann, MD. I am a practicing physician at an academic health center in Ohio. I stand in vigorous opposition to HB-248, a proposed bill that itself stands in opposition to the health and well-being of Ohioans.

As a physician at our region's only adult academic health system and provider of tertiary/quaternary care, I care for the most vulnerable patients in our region. To protect these patients and my colleagues, our front line workers, my employer embraces every opportunity to provide world class health care in a safe environment. This includes requiring employees to be vaccinated against infectious diseases that might otherwise cause serious harm, or even death, to our patients and clinical staff. It is critically important that my employer has the ability to implement safety protocols, including vaccinations, to prevent the spread of infectious diseases when caring for our highly vulnerable patients. House Bill 248 will endanger the lives of our patients, their families, and our team members.

I strongly believe in the efficacy, safety and necessity of vaccines. Not only does House Bill 248 weaken our current public health framework, it undermines decades of advancements in research and discoveries eradicating deadly diseases.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,

Nives Zimmermann, MD