

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 Stewart Jacob and I am an ordained rabbi and a stay at home dad. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because the right to make one's own personal medical decisions, free of coercion or undue influence, should be sacrosanct and requires the protection of the law. I believe that those who decide not to undergo vaccination will likely become undeserving scapegoats for any future COVID outbreaks, despite the lack of evidence for vaccines stopping transmission. History teaches us that the dehumanization of a disfavored group leads inevitably to disaster. Medical discrimination is not, and can never be, moral. It is unethical, unscientific, unconstitutional, harmful and a crime against humanity. Passage of HB 248 can help steer Ohio away from the catastrophe of a two-tier society; failure to pass it could easily lead to the creation of castes and place our society in a dark & ethically monstrous place. And as the father of two young children, I want the next generation to inherit a country that lives up to the Founders' ideals of freedom and liberty.

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

Sincerely

Stewart Jacob

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