

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 Trina Poremsky and I am a Registered Nurse. I work two jobs, both night shift and day shift to support my family. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because my employer has made it a condition of my employment to get the experimental COVID-19 vaccine. I have worked during the entire pandemic, both in the hospital setting and going into patients homes to provide care. I am a healthy, 44 year old woman with absolutely no health problems, and even through caring for COVID-19 patients over eighteen months, both in the inpatient and home care settings, as well as being exposed in the community, I have not acquired this disease, nor has anyone in my family. How is it that I have worked so long in this environment, when much of the rest of my community stayed home and did not go into work, and now I am being told I will be fired if I am not vaccinated? If I do not accept the injection of an experimental drug into my body? One that is not only NOT FDA approved, but has not been proven to stop either transmission or infection of this disease. It has not been proven to reduce moderate or severe symptoms, hospitalization, ICU use or death. I am now facing the mandate of accepting this experimental drug into my body or being prevented from providing for my family. Last year I was a hero, this year I will be fired. It is just astounding to me.

Additionally, I am born and raised a Catholic, and my faith is fully rooted in respect for life. I have dedicated my life to saving mothers and babies. Now I am being forced to inject a drug that was created using aborted children? I refuse to go against everything I believe and everything I have

worked to save over the course of my lifetime. It is unbelievable that it would be made a condition of my employment to be forcefully injected with a drug that goes so far against my faith. I thought I lived in the United States of America, where we have the freedom of choice, the freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and medical freedom to choose what we put in our bodies. The development of every one of the COVID-19 vaccines goes directly against my religious beliefs and mandating this vaccine as a condition of employment violates my freedom of religion. I am horrified and stunned that this is what is being forced upon me, at the expense of my ability to provide for my family.

I beg of you, please use the power of the legislature to stop employers from forcing this upon healthcare workers. We have dedicated our lives to caring for others, and have done so during such a difficult time, especially over the course of the last 18 months. Please stand up for us and our medical freedom.

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

Sincerely,

Trina Poremsky, RN