

To Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo and member of the House Health Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill HB248. Date: 8/17/2021

I am writing so my voice is heard on the HB248 Bill. I support House Bill 248. My name is Judith Heckman and I am an office coordinator in a children's hospital in Dayton, and the reason I support HB248 is as follows: I am 52-year-old and I never thought I'd live to see the days like these. I have read revelation in the bible and I feel like we are currently living it. I believe the devil is trying to divide and conquer us all. I have worked since I was 16 years old paying taxes and voting when I became an adult. I don't believe in employers or places of establishments to be able to tell me that because I'm unvaccinated that I don't have a job, or I can live freely. I am a natural born citizen of this USA but lately I don't feel very patriotic. I see the people struggling like me to avoid getting fired and having to take a shot that I'd rather have a bullet in my head (figuratively speaking of course). Being Catholic I don't agree with the it. I am the sole provider for myself and husband. My husband was diagnosed 3 years ago with Interstitial Lung Disease (Crytogenic Organized Pneumonia). I am his caregiver and I provide the insurance for his much-needed medications. So, without a job and insurance I won't be able to provide this for him. I feel it's my GOD given right to choose what is best for my body not the government. My body is a temple of GOD and God's alone. I don't need a clergy, priest, rabbi or pastor to sign off on my religious exemption. GOD himself exempted me when I CHOOSE to give myself to him and him alone thru baptism. I was reborn again thru GOD. So, I can only honor GOD. I honestly feel that you are making me brake that very sacred baptism with GOD. What is It? Baptism serves as the first sacrament one receives when entering the Catholic Faith. It is a sacrament of initiation (which you can only receive one time), meaning once you received it, you officially enter into the body of Christ, the Catholic Church. Yet, I don't remember the government or any of the government officials being GOD. So, how can you stand there and say I must do something I am totally against. I don't believe there is enough data to prove to me these vaccinations are safe. I work in the health care field in respiratory. I have watched people vaccinated become sick that I've worked with COVID 19 supposedly. Yet while I was around them I myself didn't get sick and I didn't take the virus home to my husband. I have done everything the CDC has asked. I wear a mask and I have sanitized more than most people. I wipe down my desk and the whole office I work in. When I get home or if I go anywhere, I wear a mask and hand sanitize. I wipe down my groceries when I bring them in my house and then wipe down the doors to keep myself and husband safe.

The following is scriptures about my body being the temple of God:

(1 COR 3:16) "For the temple of God, which you are, is holy." (1 Cor 3:17): "For we are the temple of the living God. Saint Paul teaches us in 1 Corinthians 3:16-17: "Do you not understand that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, lives in you? If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy them, for the temple of God is holy and so you as His temple, are holy". (2 Cor 6:16) This got me thinking. St. Paul is famous for his teaching on each of us being members of the Body of Christ. What does he mean when he says that we are also temples? Does being a temple

have anything to do with our being the members of the “body” of Christ? Christians are taught that their **bodies** are **temples** of God, as stated in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: “Do you not know that **your body** is a **temple** of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

In Jn 2:19-21, Jesus refers to himself as a temple. It only makes sense, then, that Paul would tell us that we too are temples. If Jesus is a temple, and we are his body, then we too are temples. What does that mean, then to be a temple? A temple is the place of God’s dwelling, and by virtue of our baptism, we have the life of God, the Spirit of God dwelling within us. The temple is the place of sacrifice. We are called to be sacrifice. “Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”(Mt 16:24). “then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him”(Rom 8:17) “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,(Col 1:24). That is not to say that Christ’s sacrifice was not sufficient, it was. Paul is calling us to unite our sufferings to those of Christ for the continuing on going salvation of the Church, made up of all of the members of his body. Paul is calling us to be temples.

The Body’s Role in Our Salvation: Thus, in demanding both spiritual and physical cleanliness in the temple, and in promising the resurrection of the body as justification for demanding that cleanliness, Christ shows us that our physical bodies play a key role in our salvation. Joined to Christ in the saving grace of **Baptism** we become part of Him, “members of Christ,” the true Temple itself. At **Confirmation**, when we receive the Holy Spirit, who dwells in our bodies to teach us **prayer**, we become “temples” of the Holy Spirit. And in the **Eucharist** we receive Christ’s real Body and Blood to feed our real bodies and strengthen our spirits.

Sin must not reign over your mortal bodies so that you obey their desires. And do not present the parts of your bodies to sin as *weapons for wickedness*, but present yourselves to God as raised from the dead to life and the parts of your bodies to God as *weapons for righteousness*.

—Romans
6:12–13

Sincerely,



Judith Heckman