

August 17, 2021

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 Melissa Pratt, I am a homeschool teacher as well as a Revenue Integrity Specialist/CPC for a health system in Columbus, Ohio. The reason I support House Bill 248 is I believe whether a person is pro-vaccine or anti-vaccine, he/she should always be given the freedom of choice when it comes to any medical procedure or service. Mandating vaccines to someone who does not want them is the exact same as telling someone that wants a vaccine that he/she cannot get it. Also, "my body, my choice" applies to abortion as well as vaccines. There is no difference in these scenarios. We are citizens of the USA, where freedom was fought by brave men and women who believed in it. They believed in freedom enough to lose their lives defending it. If our freedom of choice is taken away, then they all died in vain. Please, let us honor these men and women by maintaining medical freedoms for the Ohio people.

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

I am urgently requesting an emergency clause amendment so people facing mandates get relief now. People's livelihoods are currently being and will continue to be lost due to vaccine mandates being established by employers. It is of the utmost urgency that this be done immediately.

Sincerely,

Melissa Pratt