

Chairman Lipps, Vice chair Holmes, Ranking member Russo, and members of the health committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on house Bill 248.

My name is Amy Frantz and I am a registered nurse with 30 years of experience in patient care. The reason I support Bill 248 is I believe taking a vaccine should be a personal choice. Especially given the fact this is not FDA approved and clinical trials are still in process.

Last September, I had covid and struggled to recover encountering many complications (including a case of pneumonia that led to 3 days in the hospital). I was considered to be a "long hauler", which meant I experienced fatigue and other respiratory issues for 6 months.

My current employer, Premier Health, is mandating the vaccine as a condition of employment. Failure to get vaccinated will be taken as a voluntary resignation (in order for them to avoid paying unemployment). The fact that I have natural immunity from being infected and recovering is not being taken into consideration, even though multiple studies (including one from the Cleveland Clinic) indicate that natural immunity lasts for at least 1 year and may be permanent.

My personal medical choices should not be dictated by my employer, and I should not be forced to choose between vaccination and unemployment.

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

Sincerely,

Amy Frantz