

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.

I am deeply concerned by what I see happening in other states in our country. Governments are encouraging or sitting by idly as businesses, colleges, and institutions are mandating a vaccine to the detriment of their constituents. Such policy is unfathomable in a country that was founded on civil liberties and basic human rights. With such a fundamental civil liberty as medical freedom now on the line, Ohioans absolutely must be heard and taken into the highest consideration in creating policy regarding this matter. I support HB 248 wholeheartedly in order to protect every Ohioan's fundamental right to choose, without coercion or repercussion, whether they accept a vaccine be injected into their body. Also, no person should be discriminated against or have limited mobility in society due to their personal choice to decline a vaccine. Many Ohioans are under extreme duress without a law in place that will prohibit any such vaccine mandates and vaccine passports, and understandably will seek residence in other states that do provide these protections. We simply cannot leave Ohioans vulnerable to an authoritarian atmosphere and the creation of second class citizens.

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

Sincerely,

Craig Faulkner