

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 Jennifer Moyer and I am a nurse with 14 years of experience. I am writing in support of House Bill 248 because I believe that all people should have the power to decide and direct their own medical care without discrimination. Vaccination is a part of that medical care. Part of our hippocratic oath as health care workers is to do no harm (this includes psychological harm) and a piece of that involves allowing our patients to make decisions about their care. Everybody is different (medical conditions, history, culture, religion...) and each individual should have the right to decide for themselves the risks they are willing to take when it comes to procedures, medications, and their course of treatment. If that was taken away, how safe would you feel in a hospital? I sure wouldn't feel safe. If the medical staff mandated every medical decision; even if they went against your own personal beliefs or yours or your families wishes that just wouldn't be ok. There is a reason that we don't operate that way in healthcare normally. It would breed distrust, cause harm, and be a violation of the patient's rights. That's what healthcare workers and so many others who have decided to wait or not to take the COVID 19 vaccine are feeling now, like our freedom/rights are being removed and violated. The feeling that the organizations that we have worked so hard for, and poured ourselves into to make them great and provide great care can no longer be trusted. Coercion is NOT right and only breeds mistrust. Everyone should have a choice in this. The worst part in hospitals is that the medical professionals who, most have been tracking and pouring over data and studies since the beginning of the pandemic aren't being trusted to make their own decisions. Some choose to abstain for medical reasons, and others for religious or personal reasons. Why is this any business of our employers or schools? It shouldn't be. We don't force people to disclose their gender preferences, race, medical history to those who don't have to know to provide care (HIPPA), or personal struggles with others. That should be their own private business. Who are our government officials, or hospital administrators (many of whom lack an actual medical degree or have been away from the bedside for decades) to force vaccination upon those who don't want it or have decided it's not right for them? They shouldn't have that kind of power over others. Please protect all Ohioans. For the nurses and doctors being affected by this, please remember, these are medical professionals, most of them have been tracking and pouring over data since the beginning of the pandemic. They have weighed the risks. Even if we are a

minority, please protect our rights under the constitution. Don't let fear dictate our decision making.

The point is that this isn't about the efficacy or safety of the vaccine. I'm not here to debate that. I choose to disclose that my family and I are all current on all of the other vaccines that are recommended to my knowledge. We truly believe that vaccines are a useful tool. Allowing businesses and schools to discriminate by firing/terminating staff that choose to wait or abstain altogether is not. This threatens livelihoods. This level of close-mindedness and hatred that this breeds is leading to an unnecessary divide in our country when we need unity and is a violation of the rights of people in the state. The point is that we should ALL have a choice and shouldn't be able to be discriminated against based on that choice. Whether people choose to get the vaccine or not, their choice should be their own(it's a medical treatment). We all accept the risks of our own choices. Our private medical information also shouldn't have to be shared with the public via things like vaccine passports (proof of vaccination).

Please protect the rights of all people across the state, no matter their decision regarding the vaccine. An employer or school shouldn't have the power to force a person to take a vaccine/medical treatment.

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

Sincerely,
Jennifer Moyer RN BSN