

HB 248 Proponent Testimony

Dear Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Honorable Members of the House Health Committee,

Hello my name is Laura Chonko and I am an optometrist in Ohio and I have been practicing for 22 years. I appreciate the opportunity to provide proponent written testimony regarding Sub House Bill 248.

As a health care provider and a mother of two teenagers, the very real possibility of medical discrimination and medical tyranny is terrifying. Medical decisions should remain between a patient and a health care provider. Every medical procedure has a risk/benefit ratio, and a vaccination for one person may be advisable, while it may be highly contraindicated in another. No business, employer, school, university, etc. should be allowed to dictate what medical procedures a person undergoes. Furthermore, business entities do not have the right to ask if an individual consumed a medical product in order to receive goods or services. Can you imagine living in a world where some individuals aren't allowed to enter a grocery store to buy food? What about not being allowed to fly on an airplane based on vaccination status? Will my college student daughter be banned from attending classes at The Ohio State University because she is not getting this particular shot? We have never done this in America, and it's a horrible idea to begin medical discrimination. Please stand firm in support of this critical bill protecting Ohioans from medical coercion and discrimination. Let's preserve medical freedom for all Ohioans.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

In health,
Laura M. Chonko, OD