

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 Chan-tah Summers and I am nurse and there are several reasons I support House Bill 248. The first being that as a nurse I took an oath to protect people whether that be my patients, family, or the public from harm. I do not feel that the COVID vaccine is safe for anyone. There have been numerous side effects reported such as anaphylactic reactions, thrombosis with thrombocytopenia, changes in menstruation for women and even death. Those are just some of the ones we know about. There is no data to inform the public of the long-term effects of the COVID vaccines. There are also the makers of the COVID vaccine to take into consideration of the public's safety. The makers are immune from liability, meaning they are unwilling to accept responsibility for adverse reactions now or in the future. Moderna, one of the COVID vaccine makers, is a newer company starting in 2010 and does not have anything FDA approved. The other companies making COVID vaccines also have their fair share of failed products that have caused serious harm or injuries to people resulting in pulling the product and lawsuits. The COVID vaccine did not go through the proper testing for it to be released safely to market. Are the companies who are mandating their staff willing to take responsibility for adverse reactions?

I am a young woman who has recently gotten married. I knew as a teenager that I wanted to become established in my career and find a man that I could marry and start a family with. My husband and I have been talking about trying to start a family here in the next few months. The COVID vaccine has no data on if it is safe for those trying to conceive or those who are pregnant. I mentioned previously how the CDC is back and forth on the safety of the COVID vaccine regarding this concern of mine. It is also unknown if this causes miscarriages or sterility. It absolutely breaks my heart to think that I may not be able to have children because of a forced vaccine. It also breaks my heart to think that I may no longer have a job after I have spent the last 12 years being a caregiver and advocate for my patients.

The CDC and Dr. Fauci have been contradicting themselves from the very beginning. Dr. Fauci in January 2020 said that the United States was at very low risk for COVID. Dr. Fauci and the CDC continue to flip flop on wearing a mask and the vaccine itself. First those who were vaccinated no longer had to wear a mask, spreading, and quarantining. The CDC now recommends that the vaccinated wear masks to prevent being infected or spreading either COVID 19 or the Delta variant. The CDC's website also informs those who are vaccinated that they need to be tested 3-5 days after coming into close contact with someone who is positive even if they have no symptoms. The vaccinated are also told to wear a mask for 14 days following exposure even if no symptoms until a negative test result. If the test comes back positive those who are vaccinated are told to isolate for 10 days. Basically, those who are fully vaccinated are still able to contract, carry and spread the virus. The government and employers who are trying to mandate the COVID vaccine because of wanting to keep the public safe the above information from the CDC's website negates their reason for the mandation.

I would also like to point out that while hospitals and businesses are mandating the vaccine there are some who are not. Moderna, Pfizer/Biontech, The White House, W.H.O., CDC,

FDA, and Johnson & Johnson are not mandating their employees to get the vaccine. This is very concerning to me because if they are not making it mandatory for their employees then how can we the people trust the safety of this vaccine.

I am also concerned for our rights and freedoms. If we are mandated to get the vaccine either for employment or to be allowed into businesses and restaurants how is that freedom? It's not, it's called discrimination. What about HIPPA? Releasing or requesting medical information about anyone is in violation of that individuals' rights and can result in legal action. I was always taught in nursing school that our patients have rights. One of those being the right to choose regarding their health, even if we don't agree. We are taught to check our opinions at the door and treat everyone with the same respect and care no matter what. There are plenty of children who go to school that are unvaccinated against diseases and they are not prevented from attending class because of this. There are plenty of individuals who are told that if they don't change how they eat, exercise, or cut down on stress it could kill them choose not to change these habits. They are free to make their own decisions and choices albeit for better or worse they are allowed that freedom. I also don't feel like showing proof of a vaccine to enter any business is appropriate either. That does not sound like freedom at all.

Prior to the vaccine that has proven to not be as effective as was thought to be, those of us in healthcare were taking care of COVID patients perfectly fine without a vaccine. We used PPE to care for those diagnosed with COVID to prevent spreading to ourselves and other patients. As I mentioned before those who are vaccinated are still able to contract, carry and spread this virus. Even if forced to get the vaccine it does not guarantee the safety of others.

My biggest fear is a large exodus of essential workers. There has always been a shortage in healthcare workers but nothing like it has been in the last year and a half. I fear that if House Bill 248 does not pass it will get worse. I know that a lot of my fellow colleagues are feeling stressed and burnt out and I fear what is to come.

I please ask that you take into consideration not only my testimony but the testimony of all of those for this bill and vote Yes. Thank you once again for this opportunity to provide testimony on the need for and urgency of House Bill 248.

Sincerely,

Chan-tah Summers