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**Interested Party Testimony for House Bill 218**  
**Ohio Senate Senate General Government Budget Committee**  
**December 6, 2021**

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Craig, and Members of the Senate General Government Budget Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide interested party testimony on Sub House Bill 218.

I am Stephanie Stock, President of Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom, a non-partisan non-profit advocating for Ohioan's right to choose or refuse any medical treatment or procedure, including vaccination. Our organization represents an active community of over fifty thousand. I am here today to provide testimony for Ohio House Sub Bill 218.

Firstly, with all due respect, I must communicate the frustration and disappointment of myself and the tens of thousands of Ohioans I am here representing. The Ohio House has introduced countless bills as alternatives to Ohio House Sub Bill 248, the bill that Ohioans need and want, as an effort to undermine the effort to protect Ohioan's right to decline a vaccination and still put food on their family's table. When all efforts failed to derail HB248, Representatives in the House, at the direction of House Leadership, ramrodded this Sub Bill 218 in their effort to appease their multi-million and multi-billion dollar lobbying donors, while taming the angry mob of Ohioans pleading desperately for relief from big government and large corporate overreach into their bodies, all to free up their phones and email inboxes and to try and salvage their upcoming election campaigns. Their behavior in this regard was disgraceful. However, here we are, so let me address the issues at hand and the HB 218 as it has been introduced to this committee.

Myself, and members of our organization have provided testimony in numerous hearings, over the past half dozen years, foreshadowing this very issue. Multiple times, we have brought to the Ohio Legislature's attention that healthcare professionals were being forced to choose between a flu vaccine, and their job. We warned many members of this Assembly that if the issue wasn't addressed then, it would be only a matter of time before an issue affecting all Ohioans would be at your desks. In fact, it was only several months ago that we provided testimony for SB22 and HB90, warning that mandatory vaccines for all Ohioans was an imminent concern. Here we are, many Ohioans have already lost their jobs for declining a job.

For years healthcare workers have been required by their employers to subscribe to a mandatory vaccination program against our wishes. But now there's no denying that the general public faces the same, since most Ohioans are in the midst of Covid-19 vaccines being mandated in their places of employment, as a requirement to attend school, and even as a prerequisite to participate in society.

House Sub Bill 218 leaves Ohioans with scraps of liberty and codifies vaccine discrimination among our workforce, school children, and college students. This slightly improved, re-packaged version of "leadership's" HB 435 is an attempt to pacify Ohioans that have been asking for the protections of HB 248 for the last seven months.

Here are some of the problems with Sub HB 218 that must be amended:

- 1) Stating that an employer or school must provide exemptions for mRNA technology vaccines, drugs, or Biologics insinuates that an employer does not need to provide exemptions for any other vaccine or drug. Does this allow for schools or employers to mandate the Flu and other vaccines? Or how about drugs like birth control, weight loss medication, and so on? As long as they are approved?

- 2) Exemptions do not apply to healthcare students or workers at a children's hospitals or intensive or critical care units, or those individuals who may be assigned to those units. Could an hospital, for example, argue that certain staff could potentially rotate into those units, and therefore they can enforce requirements on those employees also. Effectively meaning they can force the requirements on their entire staff?
- 3) The bill states that these employers "shall make a good faith effort to provide equitable employment for an employee who refuses a Covid-19 vaccine" and that schools shall provide "good faith equitable instruction" for those declining the mRNA vaccine or drug. However, there is no one to enforce this "good faith effort." Who will enforce that schools and employers are following the law? And to what extent qualifies a "good faith effort"?
- 4) Aside from schools and employers not being allowed to "exclude" unvaccinated children from school activities and employees from work, there are no discriminatory protections provided for employees or students. Students and employees can still be required to pay higher insurance premiums, be segregated, be denied raises, be left on unpaid administrative leave, etc.
- 5) This bill codifies the discriminatory actions of masking and testing. The language will permit forced testing and masking requirements for students and workers as long as the school or employer pays for it.
- 6) Medical exemptions can only be written by a "physician authorized to practice medicine and surgery" that you also have a "bona-fide relationship" with, leaving many of the health care providers (Nurse Practitioners, Chiropractors, etc) for whom Ohioans rely unable to provide their patients with an exemption.
- 7) State government defines a "bona-fide relationship" as a relationship where you "receive care on an ongoing basis". Many Ohioans may have a medical condition that precludes them from receiving certain medical interventions, for which they were diagnosed and are still applicable, but whom may not have an ongoing relationship with a "physician".
- 8) The "natural immunity" exemption will be granted based on your antibody testing levels (which you are responsible to pay for over and over at the discretion of your school or employer) and those levels must be "recognized by the medical community at the time of testing". These levels must also be "equal to or greater than the vaccine levels". However, for example, there is no requirement for the vaccinated to monitor their ongoing antibody levels.
- 9) Liability protection is granted to all healthcare workers and emergency responders regarding Covid-19 without any specific parameters. Will they be immune from any harm caused from protocols for Covid-19 or for administering hospital protocols against wishes of a patient? Or is this liability protection only for them infecting others with Covid?
- 10) While HB 218 does require Workers Comp to cover vaccine injuries that occur under an employer requirement, there are no clearly defined requirements for what an employee must provide to prove their vaccine injury in order to get that coverage. So is the administration of those claims left at the complete discretion of that agency?
- 9.) These scraps of liberty expire in September 2025.



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You see, you either believe in all liberty, or you don't believe in any.

You either believe in all bodily integrity, or you don't believe in any.

You either believe in all individual healthcare privacy, or you don't believe in any.

You either believe in all personal choice in healthcare decisions, or you don't believe in any.

These are not pick-and-choose concepts. Your principals are not à la carte. These are foundational beliefs that reflect your moral compass. And also remember, this all applies to yourself, also. So think carefully, because "rules are for thee, but not for me" doesn't go over well with Ohioans.

Many Americans, who cannot, or choose not to be vaccinated, have feared that the world is becoming a place where they will no longer be permitted to travel, attend music or sporting events, or even send their children to school. That fear is now a reality. Every day, vaccine status discrimination is being further engrained into our society.

Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom strongly encourages you to consider significant revamping of Ohio House Sub Bill 218 before codifying ill-conceived legislation, under the guise of "protecting Ohioans' rights, that actually engrains discrimination against Ohioans' into Ohio Revised Code. We strongly encourage this Committee to re-review Ohio House Sub Bill 248, the legislation Ohioans actually want and need, and adopt language from that bill as a remedy to the aforementioned concerns.

God Bless! Sincerely,

Stephanie Stock, LPTA

President, Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom

Parent of a child that suffered a vaccine injury.