

Thursday, June 6, 2024

Chairman Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to provide support testimony for HB 319; “The Conscientious Right to Refuse Act.” I believe the most important right in America and in Ohio is the right to body autonomy. No one should be forced to comply with any medical treatment against their conscience or religious beliefs in order to work or provide for themselves and their family. Many people were forced to take the Covid 19 shot during the pandemic against their will in order to keep their jobs, or they had to live in daily fear of the possibility of being fired even having provided an exemption to their employer as my husband did. We knew that vaccines can cause life altering injuries as I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis two months after receiving a flu and dtap vaccine when I was 22 years old, so my husband would have chosen to lose his 20 year career rather than risk his health to a possible vaccine injury if it had come to that. This bill, if it becomes law, would protect every Ohio citizen from being mandated, coerced, or bullied into medical treatment against their conscience. We need this bill passed into law to make sure that the freedom to body autonomy is protected at the state level. I urge the committee members to please vote yes on HB 319.

Thank you,

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