

*Friday, June 7, 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.”

It is of the utmost importance to me to be able to retain the right to decline any vaccine or drug that violates my conscience or my religion without facing discriminatory action both now and in any future pandemic.

During Covid, both myself and my husband were continuously being harassed by employers and business owners to take the Covid vaccine which we are very much against for religious and medical freedom reasons.

We were refused entry to many businesses and we were unable to see our Canadian relatives for over 2 years due to our vaccination status.

My husband’s doctor tried to provide us with ivermectin when we had Covid, but he was refused by the pharmacy and eventually that doctor was kicked out of that practice for not promoting the shots and trying to help people get better with other tried and true treatments.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that Ohioans should have their right of conscience and religion protected from the medical over-reach of employers or those providing public services. Both the U.S. and Ohio State constitutions address the right of conscious and religious freedom. It is time to make sure that those freedoms are protected at the state level.

**I** urge the committee members to please vote yes on HB 319.

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