

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.”

As a voting constituent and free American, who was a first-hand witness to the actions taken during the last “pandemic,” I passionately believe in the ability to make informed decisions affecting my own, or children’s, healthcare decisions. These rights were enshrined in our Constitution when our country was first founded, though not implicitly. Having healthcare decisions made for me by unaccountable bureaucrats is not acceptable. Anything that violates your conscience or your religion without facing discriminatory action both now and in any future pandemic should face complete non-compliance.

This administration’s response to the previous “pandemic” led to some of the most anti-American actions in history. Local, state, and federal government harassment was relentless. Private industry and corporate entities were forced to comply with this tyranny not only in Ohio but nationwide.

Were it not for the 1851 Center, I would have also likely suffered disciplinary harm for my beliefs. Being a local police officer at the time, this was a daily issue as I went on calls several times a day for complaints made on either side of the issue. A Constitutional crisis was either unintentionally, or intentionally, caused depending on your political beliefs. And mincing no

words, the last pandemic was entirely political. It was barely an issue about public health. And it is curious how these issues only seem to happen in years where national elections occur.

At times, I was not allowed to shop in certain stores if I was not wearing a mask and whenever I was asked about my vaccination status, I refused to answer, though this was rare.

To reiterate: I believe that Ohioans should have their right of conscience and religion protected from medical overreach from 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.