

Date: 6/8/24

To: Chairman Al Cutrona

From: Steven Grasl

Re: HB 319 Written Proponent Testimony

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 am a lifelong devotee to the Christian faith, and I take my health, diet, and medical freedoms very seriously. As an aerospace engineer, I know the value of science, research, and data in the decision-making process. So while I fully support the "science" involved in medical care, I also know that it is *never* absolute. There are times to trust the science, but there are certainly other times when it is totally appropriate to *question* the science, just as all great scientists throughout history are aware. As we experienced during the recent Covid pandemic, there was a vast number of references to "science" that were pushed on citizens of this country that were later found to be inaccurate.

During the pandemic, I was still a contract engineer at NASA, and for a period of time (prior to a job-saving court ruling for medial freedom for government contractors in Ohio and other states), NASA was forcing all government contractors to either get vaccinated, or get tested weekly on our own time, and at our own expense. My wife was also coerced by the private company she worked for to get vaccinated.

While I had never resisted vaccines up until this virus, my personal research into the design and workings of the new vaccine options resulted in great concerns from both a medical and faith standpoint. And having just had the Covid virus a few weeks before this mandate, I felt that I already had "natural immunity", which was never even taken into during the period of forced vaccination. Nor was my current excellent state of health, having absolutely NO comorbidities whatsoever, and exercising regularly. And lastly, even the pharmaceutical companies now deny that they ever claimed that their vaccines would significantly slow the spread of the virus, which was the **ONLY** real rationale that ever made this mandate even slightly tolerable.

I came close to losing my job over my refusal to vaccinate. This caused extreme tension in both my personal and professional life for many months, and caused me to feel like I was living in communist China rather than the "home of the free".

Please, please, please put an end to government and medical over-reach when it comes to forced medical mandates so that citizens of this great state of Ohio know that they will never have to endure this government over-reach again. I urge the committee members to please vote **YES** on **HB 319**.

Sincerely,  
Steven Grasl