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From: Janet Levatin, MD

To: The Health Provider Services Committee

Re: Support Testimony for HB 319

6/9/2024

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

I appreciate the opportunity to provide support testimony for HB 319, "The Conscientious Right to Refuse Act." I am submitting this testimony as both a physician practicing in Ohio and a citizen residing in the state.

I strongly support the right of all Ohioans to decline vaccines and other pharmaceuticals for any personal reason, be it religious, philosophical, medical, or undeclared, without suffering discrimination, financial penalties, loss or curtailment of employment, or loss of access to public services. There is no place in a free society for governmental agencies, institutions of higher learning, or employers to require citizens to accept medical therapies to which they object.

I urge the committee members to uphold our citizens' freedom of religion and conscientious beliefs by voting yes on HB 319.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Levatin, MD

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