

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."

It is important to me to retain the right to decline any vaccine or drug that violates my conscience and/or religion without facing discriminatory action.

My former employer was coercing employees to get the mRNA injections through withholding of matching Health Savings Account funds. I was forced to seek a religious exemption to circumvent this.

Additionally mandating that individuals that had not received the mRNA injections must continue to mask long after masking was known to be insignificant with regard to the spread of Covid. It was like the identification of the Marking System for prisoners during the Holocaust!

I and all 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."

Sincerely,

T. Matthew Held