

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."

*Having the ability to retain the right of myself and my children to decline any vaccine or drug that violates your conscience or your religion without facing discriminatory action both now and in any future pandemic is a need that is a top priority.*

*Several members of my family experienced discrimination with pressure to take the vax or lose employment or the ability to attend college. My son Ethan was known as the most quarantined high school student in the New Richmond Exempted Village School district although he never had signs of illness. He was unable to participate in District/ State swimming competition. He was given notice by the University of Cincinnati that he would be unable to move into the pre paid for campus apartment unless he had record of vaccine receipt 2 days prior to move in. They were not accepting religious exemptions. Your fees would not be refundable if you did not comply, the food plan would not be refundable and the financial stress with starting college had a detrimental effect on his mental health.*

*My disabled daughter at Kroger was grilled daily to determine if she had received the vax. She was mandated to wear a mask when any non vaxed co-worker could breathe freely. Customers would point out the fact that she should take the*

*vaccine so she wouldn't infect them. She came home crying daily due to verbal assaults.*

*I work at a Children's Hospital. We were permitted to apply for religious exemptions. I applied and waited for months to get a determination in which the delay in company response window made getting the vax to be compliant impossible. My job as a nurse for more than 30 years was in jeopardy. I knew I could not support my family if I did not comply. My mental health was in crisis. Depression and anxiety made daily function a struggle with suicidal thoughts a 24 hour/day reality. My co-workers were unmasked in the office.*

*Compliance guidelines were sent out weekly with instructions to prevent termination of my position for noncompliance. Due to the physical and psychological trauma, I regretfully took the J&J vax with 14 days left prior to getting a pink slip. My religious exemption was received days before the deadline. I did not turn in my vax card. I continued to be discriminated against and turned in by staff members if I was noted to be maskless. My employee profile has a different color than my peers, identifying my unvaxed status.*

I continue to suffer Anxiety and Depression affecting my productivity at work, relationships and participation in life. Traditional medication management has failed. Coercion tactics continue with campaigns to continue to vaccinate with the latest Covid booster. The requirement for mandated flu vaccine with Covid is now a yearly trauma with reapplication for religious exemption and the wait for approval to remain employed. *I continue to have blood clots and bruising that continue post vax which at times are severe enough that I*

*have looked like I have been beaten. I constantly worry about how this mandate will continue to effect the mental and physical health of myself and my family, and fear for the impact of the next wave of mandates that may further impact our lives. then explain your injury and how it has negatively impacted your life or ability to work or care for yourself or your family. (If you have a photo of yourself in a previously healthy state along with a photo of how you look after being vaccine injured, please include them at the bottom of your written testimony. Members need to understand the depth of your suffering.*

*I believe 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. Please support my medical right to refuse medical mandates.

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

Amy Daniel MSN, RN