

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 support Ohio [HB 319](#) because it protects all individuals in Ohio who have conscientious or religious objections to vaccination from being treated differently than their unvaccinated peers. Employers will not be allowed to force unvaccinated to wear a mask because they have declined a vaccine. Doctors will not be able to deny unvaccinated patients lifesaving health care.

Vaccines are pharmaceutical products that carry risks of injury and death and should not be a condition for employment or access to health care. No one knows in advance whom a vaccine will harm. Each of us may respond differently as we have different medical histories, genes, epigenetics, and microbiomes. Moreover, vaccines have no long-term studies on their safety, genotoxicity, carcinogenicity, or effect on reproduction.

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.

One of the most basic human rights is that of bodily autonomy, as recognized by the Nuremberg Code. Ethical medicine requires prior, completely voluntary, and fully informed consent.

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

Kindly,

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