

June 10, 2024

RE: HB 319 Conscientious Right 2 Refuse – 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.”

We have all been created with amazing immune systems. Bodily autonomy is an absolute must. It is of utmost importance that Ohioans retain the right to decline and vaccine or drug that violates our conscience or religious beliefs and not have to worry about any discriminatory repercussions now or in the future.

My faith is my everything. I hold tight to the fact that our Lord, God, created our bodies with a top-notch immune system. I know that if I provide my body with sufficient nutrition through the foods I eat and the necessary supplements my immune systems will continue to be strong. I should never have to worry about whether my employer, an educational institution that I may want to attend or any medical facility or entertainment venue or traveling opportunity my be denied to me based upon whether or not I decide to take any vaccine or medication. What I decide to put into my body or not to put into my body now or in the future should another pandemic arise is a choice that is between myself and my medical provider. No other entity should have a say in my bodily autonomy regarding what vaccine or drug is offered to the public.

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.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention.

Best regards,
Amy Martinez
Streetsboro, Ohio