



Advocating for Life, Faith, and Freedom in the Public Square

To: Members of the Ohio House Health Committee
From: Chris Long, President Ohio Christian Alliance
Re: Supporting Testimony H.B. 319

I would like to thank Chairman Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee for hearing our testimony today in support of H.B. 319, the Conscientious Right to Refuse Act. This legislation addresses a fundamental human right that has been ignored, disregarded, and violated by public and government entities in recent years.

The Nuremberg Code, established in 1948, was the first international document to advocate for informed consent and voluntary participation in research. The code states that “the voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential”, and that the subjects should have the legal capacity to give consent without coercion or constraint. They should also have enough knowledge and understanding of the subject matter to make an informed decision.

The vaccine mandates in recent years have used coercion in violation of fundamental human rights. When the COVID-19 vaccine was rolled out during the pandemic, it was well documented that it was an experimental vaccine that had not run through the full testing program the FDA normally requires before a vaccine is made available to the general public. Many Ohioans had reservations about the vaccine, as they heard reports from family members and others of complications they were experiencing with the vaccine early on. Some chose not to take the vaccine due to health concerns, personal reasons, or religious conscience.

These concerns expressed by individuals at the time were maligned, ridiculed, and even lampooned by public officials and members of the media. The truth is that their concerns have now been substantiated. In May of this year, the New York Times published an article titled “Thousands believe COVID vaccine harmed them. Is anyone listening?” According to the Times article, as of April, just over 13,000 vaccine-injury compensation claims have been filed with the federal government — but to little avail. Only 19% have been reviewed. It has also recently come to light in Congressional hearings that the Center for Disease Control knew early-on that some vaccine recipients were suffering from myocarditis, but the CDC kept that information from the general public.

Last week, the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic questioned Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of NIH, on many of the COVID policies and the vaccine mandate and its enforcement. Dr. Fauci had stated publicly that he thought the unvaccinated should be coerced in many ways, including by threatening their employment and denial of college entry if they did not take the vaccine. Other public officials went further, suggesting that the unvaccinated should not have access to public venues, including grocery stores. Many had their employment threatened if they did not take the vaccine. These draconian measures were on full display during the COVID-19 mandate enforcement. That should never be repeated. That is why we are urging the passage of H.B. 319, the Conscientious Right to Refuse Act. Thank you for receiving our testimony today in support of H.B. 319, the Conscientious Right to Refuse Act.