



Ohio State Representative Beth Lear

61st Ohio House District

MEMORANDUM

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: State Representative Beth Lear

Re: Sponsor Testimony for House Bill 112

Chairman Thomas, Vice Chairman Swearingen, Ranking Member Synenberg, and members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for allowing us to provide sponsor testimony for the *Conscientious Right to Refuse Act*.

This legislation will establish the following:

HB 112 protects the right of any person 18 and over to decline, for reasons of conscience, including religious convictions:

- any biologic, vaccine, pharmaceutical, drug, gene-editing technology, or RNA/DNA-based product,
- any mask not being used for a medical or dental procedure,
- any medical device used for tracking or storing personal information.

Ohioans who refuse any of the aforementioned medical interventions shall be not denied employment or any service, including a public or medical service or access to commerce.

The bill also prohibits segregation of the individual, financial coercion, or labeling or treating the Ohioan in a way that identifies they have refused a medical intervention or device.

This issue is about a serious violation of our natural rights. This legislation necessarily provides injunctive relief and a private right of action to any individual who, can prove by a preponderance of evidence, that a business, employer, facility, public or private entity or college

violated the discrimination section of this act. Importantly, the bill also furthers discourse by clearly stating that no portion of the act shall prevent the recommendation of, education about or access to any of the medical interventions described in the act.

The *Conscientious Right to Refuse Act* does not apply to any part of K–12 law since Section 3313.671 already allows for conscientious, religious and medical exemptions for children. *However*, we have added a much-needed provision to protect children against medical discrimination based on their vaccination status. Parents around the state have reported being denied pediatric care or having their child refused placement on an organ transplant list because they objected to hospital-required vaccines. We saw this with Tanner Donaldson in 2021 and again earlier this year with 13-year-old Adaline Deal, an extended relative of Vice President Vance. Adaline was ultimately allowed to be placed on the heart transplant list at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, after *extensive* political pressure and *massive* media exposure. Adaline and her mother, Jeneen, understand that most children will never get the national attention needed to get them on the transplant list. Adaline’s mother continues to openly advocate for HB 112 to be passed to protect all children against medical discrimination.

Adaline received a signed letter of encouragement from President Trump a few days ago, and her mother Jeneen was on Channel 12 News Monday night emphasizing the importance of passing HB 112. Jeneen sent us the following statement from Adaline which she asked us to include in today’s testimony:

“I hope HB 112 passes so that other kids who don’t get on the news can get the transplant they need too!”

This country was founded on religious freedom, and that freedom should never again be violated in the name of “public health”—a term we all watched be used as a weapon to force our constituents into compliance with political demands. This tactic of coercion continues to be used *to this day* and affects Ohio children, college students, and workers. Although the Ohio Legislature did not give Ohioans the protection they desperately needed nearly five years ago, we can act now to pass HB 112 and ensure a pathway to protect them from current and future attacks on their medical and religious liberties.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on this important bill. We would be happy to take any questions at this time.