

## Senate Bill 311 - Interested Party testimony by Sarah Barry

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and honorable members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee:

I am here representing nobody but myself. I take little pleasure coming here today, but what pleasure I do take comes from being able to simply speak truth to power, so I thank you for that privilege.

To get straight to the point, I am giving interested party testimony because I think you should know that Health Freedom Ohio (aka HFO), who submitted testimony in support of this bill, is an anti-vaccine lobbyist group.

It was 365 days ago exactly that HFO held a press conference on HB 268 right here at the Statehouse with the support of Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom (another anti-vaccine organization). They had many speakers, but the one that caught my attention most was Robert F. Kennedy Jr. I made the decision to attend in person, and it was during his portion that the most extraordinary moment happened.

Robert F. Kennedy said the name Mark Geier. I quote: "Here's the page, 545, this page is on autism and the DTP vaccine. And here, look what it says. There is only one study, and that study, Geier and Geier 2004, says that the DTP does cause autism."

I bring this up because Mark Geier was the first anti-vaxxer I ever researched, and hearing his name spoken by Mr. Kennedy at an event organized by Health Freedom Ohio made it all come full circle for me. I am here because I believe anti-vaxxers ignore, defend, and/or explicitly endorse the abuse of autistic children.

Mark Geier chemically castrated autistic children. This is a large reason for why he no longer has a medical license, and also why his son David Geier was disciplined for practicing medicine without a license. This all happened in 2011, yet as recently as May 12th, 2020, Mr. Kennedy praised Mark Geier in the forward of a new book written by anti-vaxxer Judy Mikovits (who you might remember from the "Plandemic" video that recently went viral).

Part of the forward reads: "Recent medical history overflows with other examples of the brutal suppression of any science that exposes vaccines' risks; its casualties include brilliant and compassionate doctors and scientists like Dr. Waney Squier, the railroaded British gastroenterologist Andy Wakefield, the steadfast father/ son research team David and Dr. Mark Geier, Italian biochemist Antionetta Gatti, and Danish epidemiologist Peter Goetzsche. Any just society would have built statues to these visionaries and honored them with laurels and leadership. Our corrupt medical officials have systematically disgraced and silenced them."

Mark Geier chemically castrated autistic children, and maybe you think it's unfair to call out HFO because after all, they didn't say Mark Geier's name, but leadership for HFO shared a table with Mark and David Geier at the 2018 "US Health Freedom Congress" and livestreamed him receiving an award for his courage. He violated informed consent, he performed unethical experimentation on children, and charged the parents thousands of dollars for that privilege. He is not courageous, deserves no honor, and certainly no statue.

Another name mentioned by RFK Jr was Andrew Wakefield, who also deserves no statue due in large part to the fact that his experiment needlessly exposed autistic children to incredibly invasive procedures like lumbar punctures and colonoscopies. One of the children involved in the Wakefield experiment had his bowel perforated twelve times.

*Anti-vaxxers abuse autistic children.* I said so at the anti-vaccine rally that happened in Washington D.C. last November, I said it here, I'll say it tomorrow, and I'll certainly say so in November when Health Freedom Ohio comes back to the Statehouse and hosts their HPV "symposium" with guests Robert F. Kennedy Jr, Judy Mikovits, and of course Andrew Wakefield.

I know for a fact that Health Freedom Ohio and Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom frequently meet with legislators, and in light of what I've presented today I urge those legislators who proactively work with these groups to reexamine that relationship. I also urge you to consider these facts when deciding how much weight you give the testimony by HFO. Whether you pass or don't pass SB 311 is not something I can pretend to have control over, I simply hope you will consider only credible sources when making that decision.

Thank you very much for your time and attention, and I'm ready to answer any questions you may have.