

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 248:

My name is Larissa Blais and I am a stay at home mom of 4. HB248 May be the most important piece of legislation in my lifetime. The reason I support House Bill 248 is for my children. I cannot believe the all-encompassing push for vaccines these days, especially the newest one. When my older two children (12 and 9) were little this entire narrative just wasn't a "thing." You either got them or not and no one cared. People believed what medical decisions they made along with their doctor worked and while some people felt my choices were wrong, they also realized that they were my choices to make. I used to be able to easily find a doctor that would see my kids, but sadly that is no longer the case!

Things are so different in just a few short years. I'm so sad for my children, who without this protection of HB248 may never go to another sporting event, get to see The Nutcracker at Christmas time or even go to a children's museum. Perhaps these are trivial things but the constitution guarantees my right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The discrimination and segregation are REAL. Every single day more and more places come out saying vaccines are required. My oldest may have his future educational opportunities limited or nonexistent without this bill passed into law. My children and myself will be barred from cultural activities, entertainment activities, and educational opportunities to start. Where does it end? Will my husband have no job for his medical choices? Will I be able to go to a grocery store to buy food? These are very real very scary thoughts that are on my mind based on the direction I see things heading.

The reality is nothing; NOTHING is one size fits all. No human is the same as another. Our races, culture, upbringing, genetics, likes and dislikes, religions and everything else are all different and should all be respected. As should our medical choices be respected.

HB248 would do nothing to prevent people from making whatever choice they want. It would just ensure that no one is barred from places or singled out and discriminated against for one choice or another. I'd hate to see two separate societies evolve. It breaks my heart for my kids to possibly have this kind of divided future full of unkindness, segregation and discrimination. This past year has been so incredibly hard and now after all that I feel like I'm in the fight of my lifetime to make sure my children have a place in society.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to provide testimony on the need for and urgency of House Bill 248.

Sincerely,

Larissa Blais