

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and all other members of the House Health Committee,

First of all, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 248. I am a teacher in a private school and a mother of 3 young children. I am very careful about what I put into my body. I eat very clean and I very rarely take any kind of medications. I have an allergy to a drug and I have had past reactions when taking some medications. I also have very low blood pressure and have had issues losing consciousness with some medical procedures and under some medications. For this reason, I had a 3 of my babies without anything at all. I am not comfortable with the lack of long-term research on any of the current COVID vaccines and I am concerned about the effect they could possibly have on my short or long-term health. I also have a family history with my mother who has had an allergic reaction to one or more of the ingredients common in vaccines. This is another risk I am not willing to take and a personal health decision that I believe that I should be able to make for myself without fear of discrimination at my place of employment or any other places in my community.

I am concerned that my employer will discriminate against me if I choose not to get the shot and for this reason, HB 248 is very important to me. I believe that any medication or medical procedure should be done with full informed consent and left up to each individual person as a risk versus benefits analysis that is a very personal decision. I am responsible first and foremost for my health and the health of my family and any repercussions from my employer or pressure from businesses who may or may not require proof of vaccination is unconstitutional and discriminatory. I also should never have to disclose my "status" or personal health issues to anyone as justification for why I am making this personal health decision.

Thank you for your time and please quickly pass HB 248 as this is urgent and will impact many students and teachers like me who are in the educational system.

Thank you