

HB248 Proponent Testimony

Dear Chairman, Rep. Scott Lipps, Vice Chair, Rep. Adam Holmes, Ranking Member, Rep. C. Allison Russo, and members of the Health Committee-

I am a chiropractor and a publisher. I believe that Ohioans should have ultimate authority over their medical decisions and a right to maintain privacy regarding those decisions.

It has become the “norm” for some to ask if a person has been vaccinated. I find this behavior appalling. That information should be shared ONLY if a person wishes to disclose it. Asking someone their medical information should not become normal, especially to a stranger.

Outside of my office, I don't think it normal to ask someone if they've eaten junk food, if they've had a colonoscopy, if they've had a pap smear, or if they've had an HIV test upon meeting them in a store, restaurant, sporting event, or on a hiking trail. I find the previous list as absurd as **requiring** that I disclose my vaccination status to anyone as I go about my daily living. Vaccination, just like eating junk food, should be a personal choice. A school, retailer, government entity should not be privy to this information unless a person wishes to disclose it willingly.

Forced vaccination, or any medical procedure for that matter, that has any risk involved, whether it minor or death, should always remain a personal choice. For a variety of reasons, there are many people that wish to avoid vaccinations. I believe those reasons should be honored and not questioned.

Informed choice free from coercion should be the norm. Preserving my rights and my children's rights to medical privacy should be the norm. My acceptance of a medical product should not dictate the ability for my family to live freely.

From a business perspective, I wish my business be protected from any penalty involved if my employees or myself are not vaccinated and that we allow those in our place of business without being required to ask for proof of vaccination, i.e., vaccine passports.

With the current climate of employers mandating Covid vaccines, businesses implementing vaccine passports, and those who decline either facing discrimination, I believe this bill is more urgent than any other legislation at the present time.

Please ensure that HB248 is heard promptly.

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