

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. Please see below, and the attached Witness Information Form.

My name is Steve Ellis and I am a husband, father of two children, and IT Consultant working for an Columbus-based small business, and the reason I support House Bill 248 is because I believe the risk/reward does not justify getting an experimental vaccine for me or my family, and we should not be discriminated against because of this **choice**. My 10 and 11 year old children are healthy and at very low risk for any serious illness from a potential coronavirus infection. I also understand that the likelihood of them getting infected and subsequently infecting someone else is very low. My wife and I are also healthy and have not any underlying medical conditions, and thus a low risk of serious illness. Our family takes basic precautions such as washing hands and staying home when not feeling well, and individuals with elevated risks due to underlying medical conditions typically have the **choice** to be vaccinated, to socially distance, and to wear masks to further protect themselves. For these reasons, my wife and I **chose** to not vaccinate our family at least until they have been fully tested, proven safe in the short and long term, and formally approved by the FDA. We are grateful that there are vaccines for those who **chose** to get vaccinated, and I support their **right to chose**, but there are many like us who should not be discriminated against because of our personal **choice** to wait to be vaccinated until we decide it is right for us and our families.

Please note that my wife and I are not generally against vaccination, and our family has received most or all of the commonly recommended vaccines/immunizations, which have been fully tested, proven safe, and approved, because we have used our discernment and exercised our personal agency to make educated and informed **choices** to do so. Coercion in the form of discrimination should not be allowed in Ohio, and you have the ability to help ensure that it is not! Please help pass this bill.

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

Sincerely,  
Steve Ellis  
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