

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

My name is Carla Hochwalt. My husband and I are Ohio natives, currently in Denver, CO. We just bought a house in Kettering Ohio and will be moving back as soon as possible. I am a retired nurse. I have worked at Hospice of Dayton and an oncology clinic which is no longer there. Its name was Dayton Oncology. I have been around the health world most of my adult life.

While working at Hospice of Dayton, now known as Ohio's Hospice of Dayton, I learned so many things. Most importantly, I learned that a person's health journey is very unique.

As an oncology nurse, I saw some people who would never consider ending treatment and allowing hospice care into their journey. Other people skipped oncology treatment completely and embraced Hospice care right away when their doctor suggested it.

In a million years, I could never imagine forcing either group to go against their very essence and make them to take a different direction. A person's health decisions are uniquely their own. How can government make these decisions? It is unconscionable to me. It's pure cruelty.

This is how I feel about House Bill 248. I believe in a person's inalienable right to make these deeply personal decisions on their own.

If a person feels vulnerable, they are free to have a COVID shot. They are free to wear a mask. They are free to have someone else get them groceries, etc.

And if others have confidence in their immune systems, they too should have the right to move about their lives unmasked and free. They should be left to decide not to have a shot if they feel that is best.

Neither of these groups should be forced to go against their instincts. I would never ask someone who wore a mask to take it off or deny them their shot. I would also never ask someone to take a shot if they did not want to.

I am so shocked at the government at this time. This is not a decision that should be made by government. Please renew confidence to the people of Ohio and show them that you will not overstep your place as our voted in **representatives**. Representatives represent, right?

Thank you once again for this opportunity to provide testimony on the need for and urgency of house Bill 248. Please support this bill.

Ohio citizens who believe in freedom are not going away.

Sincerely,

Carla C Hochwalt