

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

My name is Melanie Jason, I am a stay at home mom, and I support House Bill 248 for a variety of reasons. I firmly believe health decisions are personal and private. There are many reasons why a person might choose not to take a particular drug or vaccine. In our family we have health concerns about the Covid 19 vaccine. My husband, Jim, has a rare clotting disorder called a protein S deficiency. He takes warfarin to prevent clots. Many drugs and foods interact with warfarin, so we have to be very careful about things my husband puts into his body. Since his condition is rare and potentially deadly our family doctor is very cautious about recommending new drugs that come on the market. Jim is only 41 years old and therefore at relatively low risk of dying from Covid19. In fact, we suspect he had it in the beginning of March 2020 before testing was readily available. But the risks of potentially upsetting the dynamics of managing his clotting disorder are unknown. For now, we feel it is safer for him to wait on taking a Covid19 vaccine. If businesses require a vaccine passport or his employer were to mandate a vaccine, Jim could be forced to choose between risking his health or keeping his job. Thankfully, they have not required it yet.

Also, we as a family stand to lose approximately \$1000 if businesses are permitted to require vaccines for customers. In the spring of 2019, we put down a deposit on a cruise with Royal Caribbean. During the summer of 2020, we opted to move our cruise date from February 2021 to February 2022 in the hopes that life would be more normal by then. Here we are in 2021 and the cruise industry has yet to sail again from the US. As part of their reopening protocol, many cruise lines are planning on requiring vaccines of their guests. Royal Caribbean has not released their official stance on the issue for all their ships, yet. Between Jim's health conditions and the fact that we have three young children, it is highly unlikely we will choose for all of us to be vaccinated before our cruise date. Royal Caribbean has had our deposit for approximately two years. We would love to take the cruise we planned. We are thankful for the work of Governor Desantis and the Florida legislature. It is because of their work passing a law that prohibits vaccine requirements that we have hope that our vacation might still happen.

I do not want to see this kind of issue happen in Ohio. I would hate to see Ohioans have to give up season tickets to the Cavs, memberships to museums, season tickets to Playhouse Square, cancel preplanned vacations, and more because they are uncomfortable taking a vaccine. Those who are unwilling or unable to take the vaccine could easily become second class citizens. We need House Bill 248 to protect Ohioans.

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

Sincerely,

Melanie Jason