

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

My name is Lynda Kiliany, RPh, PharmD, and I have been a licensed pharmacist in the state of Ohio for over 30 years. I am representing myself and my family. My opinions are my own and they do not represent the views of my employer. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because I can see the writing on the wall. I will most likely have to decide between taking the COVID-19 vaccine or losing my job in the near future.

Employer mandates and vaccine passports are freedom destroyers. The reaction to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has already destroyed personal freedom in many ways. My family has been greatly harmed by ill-conceived responses that were mandated in the interest of keeping us “safe” from harm. If we are coerced or forced into taking a medical intervention, then we are not truly a free people. This nation was based on God-given freedoms. We, the people, are the last line of defense from government overreach.

For many years, healthcare workers have been mandated to take a yearly influenza vaccination or face disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. This is wrong, but since most of us are employed “at will” we have had no choice but to comply. Now, many employers are mandating the COVID-19 vaccine...especially in healthcare. Vaccine cards have become a badge of honor while those choosing to wait are shamed or face loss of employment. This is so wrong on so many levels. 1. Those recovered from COVID-19 most likely have their own antibodies to protect them. 2. Some individuals may have legitimate medical contraindications or concerns relating to vaccination. 3. We don't know why there have been so many reports of harm or death in the VAERS database associated with these vaccines. (I'm not sure we will ever get the complete story due to politics and censorship.) 4. We have no long-term safety data, and the clinical trials are now compromised due to unblinding. 5. The vaccines have not been adequately evaluated for certain populations and age groups. It is absolute insanity to require a pregnant woman or a child to be vaccinated at this point in time. 6. The currently available vaccines are not ethically produced as they have used fetal cell lines for testing and or production. Please know that I am not an anti-vaxxer. I am,

however, very wary of the powerful pharmaceutical industry and their practices. Vaccines are Big Pharma's cash cow. I have no doubt that they are planning to turn vaccination with a COVID-19 vaccine into an annual event like the flu shot. The censorship relating to vaccination is frightening as well. Never in all my years practicing pharmacy have I seen such censorship. I remember a time not too long ago when the merits of any new therapy were discussed and debated freely. If this vaccination were as safe and effective as it is purported to be, wouldn't they be willing to debate the issue and prove it?

My conclusion is that I support this bill and the freedom to choose what is injected into my body. My vaccination status should be protected health information, not public knowledge. Without passage of this bill, I will likely be forced to retire early from a job that I love and for which I worked extremely hard to obtain. I have chosen not to take this vaccine until longer-term data are available. I spent countless hours personally researching this vaccine before making my choice. I understand that COVID-19 is a nasty bug but for the most part it is survivable. I have people who depend on me at home, and I cannot afford to be side-lined by a severe adverse reaction to a new vaccine. I will also not submit to weekly testing as one area hospital intends to do with employees who choose not to vaccinate. This is coercion and harassment plain and simple. If this bill doesn't pass, many healthcare workers will be given a mandate to take the COVID-19 shot or lose their jobs and Ohioans will face the possibility of needing vaccine passports to participate in society.

I am so grateful to Representative Jennifer Gross for bringing this bill forward. This bill and the freedom to choose is desperately needed. Do not let fear of the SARS-CoV-2 virus drive your decision. Ohioans need the freedom to choose what is best for themselves and their families.

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

Sincerely,
Lynda Gilmore Kiliany, RPh, Pharm.D.