

May 20, 2021

Dear 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.

My name is Becky McDowell. I am a real estate professional and a Mother of two elementary aged children. I support House Bill 248 because my daughter experienced adverse side effects from the rotavirus vaccine in 2014. In July 2014 at 8 months of age she contracted rotavirus within a week of receiving the rotavirus vaccine. We spent 3 nights in the hospital with her hooked up to an IV because she could not hold fluids. One of her nurses asked 'how in the world she contracted rotavirus in the middle of summer'. I said she had recently received the vaccine and the nurse didn't say anything further. Not only was the experience emotionally draining, but we also incurred \$3,500.00 in out of pocket medical expenses. My daughter's records are all documented at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne IN. When she received the MMR vaccine at 12 months she broke out in full body hives for a week. In both the rotavirus incident and the MMR incident the pediatrician had complete indemnity and did not have to admit that the vaccine could have played any role in my daughter's reactions and subsequent hospitalization.

The bottom line is that not all people's bodies are equipped to respond positively to vaccines. There are countless cases of severe adverse reactions. For this reason, it is imperative that a vaccine not be required as a condition of schooling or employment. We cannot allow people to be discriminated against based upon their vaccination records.

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

Sincerely,

Becky McDowell

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