

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 Rochelle Somsak, I am a hairstylist/independent contractor. The reason I support House Bill 248 is as follows.

I am someone who follows a more holistic approach to medical needs. I am not against traditional medical practices however being someone who has gone most of my adult life without medical insurance I have learned to take good care of myself. I also have a personal trainers certification because I wanted to be educated on remaining in the best health possible as I age. I exercise daily, take supplements, and follow a healthy diet. At the end of January, February and part of March 2020 I got what I believe to be COVID-19. We did not have test at that time. I battled for nine weeks trying to nurse it myself. About halfway through I went to an urgent care and had to get on multiple prescriptions. Now over a year later I have worked hard to get myself back to health. My physical health, strength and lungs/heart are still not what they used to be. They are still in the healing process. Through supplements and multiple therapies I have come along way. With as hard and long as I have worked at my health, it is very frightening to think I may have to be forced to take an experimental vaccine. Even if the only downside is flulike side effects for a few days, it is too much for me to want to risk after a year of self repair. The masks are hard enough to have to breathe in with compromised lungs and deal with the facial bacteria.

I am not against vaccines but I strongly believe people should have the choice on how they treat themselves medically. They should not be coerced, bribed or discriminated against. It's already caused some minor issues where I work with some of my coworkers. I have been treated differently and look down upon because I have a pro-choice view for masks and vaccines.

I truly hope the Representatives of Ohio can see that this must be a freedom for people. After all we are supposed to be a State that is part of a nation who prides itself on being land of the free. This is what has made us great. Unfortunately it is becoming what is dividing us.

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

Sincerely,  
Rochelle Somsak