

May 22, 2021

RE: HB248 – Proponent Testimony

**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, and for serving the people of Ohio. I write to you extremely concerned about the trajectory of potential vaccine mandates and passports here in Ohio, and nationwide.

I'd like to first clarify that being opposed to the Covid vaccine is not "anti-vaxx" or "anti-science". An individual can support vaccines in general, but oppose *this* specific vaccine for good reason—just like the millions of hospital health professionals, medical experts, scientists, military, police, and others across the nation who *do not want* a Covid vaccine.

Although Gov. DeWine has said publicly that he will not "mandate" vaccines/passports, he has taken an on-the-fence stance that opens the door for passports in Ohio. His stance undoubtedly places an imperative upon private businesses and large corporations to participate in (and enforce) this system to require vaccines/passports for their employees and/or customers.

**Medical freedom is a bipartisan issue.** If DeWine won't take a firm stand like Gov. DeSantis and others across the nation who have said a firm "NO!" to passports, then we Ohioans need our legislature - both parties - to protect us from this invasion of privacy, medical discrimination and the risk of being utterly disenfranchised from society.

Only an individual has the right to decide to take this Covid vaccine and join the clinical trial; that decision is between that person and his/her doctor. Not the media. Not the government. Not friends, family, neighbors or co-workers. And *certainly* not the manager of a grocery store, bar, restaurant or retail establishment (nor *should they* have that responsibility placed upon them, especially as non-medical personnel).

The idea that, in the very near future, a person might not even be able to shop for groceries because he or she doesn't have a Covid vaccine passport is horrifying. This is not a "conspiracy theory", this is reality, and the potential damage this may cause is untold. Millions of Ohioans who simply *do not wish to be part of a clinical trial* might therefore not be able to work, attend school, shop or travel as a *punishment* for not taking part in said clinical trial.

Already across Ohio, workplaces are starting to mandate this vaccine, and the number grows daily. To my understanding, this violates Federal law—mandating a therapy that's only *authorized* (not Approved) under FDA Emergency Use Authorization during a clinical trial violates Title 21, Section 360bbb-3 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act. Other employers are using the vaccine status as leverage to allow unmasking in the workplace, creating medical discrimination and segregation at work with this coercion. **Who will protect Ohioans whose employers are choosing such discriminatory practices?**

Whether a person objects to receiving this vaccine for medical, moral or other personal reasons, that objection is valid and must be protected. **Where exists serious personal risk, must exist freedom of**

**choice.** Likewise, this personal decision includes all other vaccines and medical tests/treatments, and legislation should specify as such that it is not limited only to Covid vaccines, despite these being the current primary focus.

The Covid vaccine is, by far, not without risk of adverse events, medical injury or death. To date, the numbers being reported to the U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) via the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) stand at 227,805 adverse events and 4,201 deaths following injection with Covid vaccines (spanning mid-December 2020 through May 14, 2021).

The claim “safe and effective” can only be applied to a product once it has completed its full clinical trials and achieved FDA approval, which *none* of these have done (and will not have a chance to do until their trials end in 2022 [Moderna] and 2023 [Pfizer], to the best of my knowledge).

This vaccine is already proving to be one of the most dangerous our population has ever encountered. In mere months, the 4,201 deaths following Covid vaccines now officially exceeds the total number of deaths reported to VAERS for *all other FDA-approved vaccines combined, in the last 20 years*—those 4,182 death cases recorded during 1/1/2001 - 11/30/2020!

Please note that a 2010 HHS study found that less than 1% of adverse events are *ever* reported to VAERS—so if this current number of adverse events, injuries, and death is extrapolated to represent true numbers, this is of extremely grave concern.

While we are not here to argue the risks/rewards of the vaccine itself, these facts must be discussed to see the dire need for HB248 to be passed into law immediately—where there is risk there *must* be choice, and this risk should not be mandated upon Ohioans. Nor should Ohioans face coercion, segregation or discrimination due to their Covid vaccine status.

**We need our legislators to protect us more now than ever. Once passports take hold, there's no turning back.** It will expand from the Covid vaccine to every vaccine imaginable on the current CDC schedule (which includes flu shots and adult HPV shots), and the hundreds of vaccines in development. It could even expand to include recommended medical screenings, tests or treatments, with no end, further eroding medical freedoms.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I'm urging you to please do all you can to protect Ohioans, including yourselves and your friends/families, from this medical tyranny. Please support and vote YES on HB248!