

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of Sub House Bill 248.

My name is Daniel Weiss.

I am a physician working in Mentor Ohio currently with Lake Health Medical Group.

I am board certified in internal medicine, endocrinology, and obesity medicine. I have expertise in clinical research and have served as the principal investigator in more than one hundred clinical research trials over the past 25 years. I see and treat patients who are diagnosed with COVID-19 in my practice. I support vaccination. I have been getting the influenza vaccine almost every year since I finished medical school in 1979.

However, mandating COVID vaccine passports or mandating vaccine status disclosure is unethical, illegal, and medically harmful to Ohioans. First, with regard to ethics, such mandates violate cardinal principles of individual autonomy, informed consent and non-maleficence. Mandates are coercive and have the potential, however modest, of causing harm. As a physician with years of experience in the ethics of medicine, we must protect Ohioans from such medically unethical mandates.

With regard to medical harm, all physicians and all individuals must balance risks versus benefits in any decision they make. We all should and do voluntarily weigh the pros and cons of a health decision, hopefully without coercion. The COVID-19 vaccines have been associated with a multifold higher death rate than the influenza vaccine. We know this from the government VAERS site which however underreports those deaths and other adverse events. VAERS depends upon voluntary reporting. I am aware of serious events after COVID vaccination that were not reported.

In addition, the overwhelming majority of COVID-19 infections do not lead to serious outcomes. And most importantly, there are effective treatments for COVID-19 that are currently available

with more treatments coming in the near future. Vaccination is not the sole medical approach to this pandemic.

We know from those who have died from COVID-19 after a complete vaccination series, that the COVID-19 vaccines are not 100% effective in preventing severe disease. Furthermore, the current vaccines will not protect Ohioans against the variant strains of the virus that have already arrived in Ohio. Therefore, there will be increasing use of therapies to treat COVID-19 infection.

In fact, some virologists think the current vaccines will cause more severe infections in those who have been vaccinated. There is still much that is not known.

The currently available COVID -19 vaccines are not FDA approved having received emergency use authorization (EUA) and are thus experimental. No court has ever upheld a mandate for an EUA vaccine. And the American Disabilities Act (ADA) requires “reasonable accommodations” be provided based upon an individual’s health situation, including the option to reject an experimental vaccine.

The ADA should apply to persons who have recovered from COVID-19 infection since they have been shown to have extensive protective immunity and have no need for vaccination. And these recovered persons also have been shown to have more adverse reactions if they are later vaccinated.

We must remain humble as we continue to learn more about COVID-19 and its variants. For ethical, medical and legal reasons, I urge you to support SubHB248 to protect the citizens of Ohio.

Sincerely,

Daniel Weiss MD CDCDES FAPCR PNS CPI