

May 21, 2021

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

Re: Proponent Testimony on House Bill 248

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 248.

My name is Gay Williams and I am recently retired from my career as the President of the Kentucky Automobile Dealers Association. A native of NE Ohio, I was excited to return to my home state in retirement but am now very concerned and dismayed over what I see as a systematic destruction of civil liberties and democracy going on in the State of Ohio over draconian measures that are being allowed to be carried out in the guise of a pandemic. I support House Bill 248 for all of the following reasons:

I am an educated woman of an age that is considered 'at risk' under the current health regime, yet I am not afraid of a virus but I am afraid of losing my freedom for the remainder of my life. I have gone about my daily life at home, shopping for essentials and at work, dined in restaurants, stayed in hotels, assembled with groups, hugged people from outside my family unit - all without fear of contracting or dying from this virus. I also do not wear a mask unless it is unavoidable as it is harmful to my personal health and well-being.

When I ask people who have been made so afraid by the 24/7 mainstream media fear mongering if they personally know anyone who has died or had the virus, the overwhelming response is, "well, come to think of it - NO." This is an eye-opening question for most. I, my family and friends and professional acquaintances know very few people, if any, who have had the virus and certainly do not know anyone who has died. The few people I do know who have tested positive for the virus have said it was not as bad as most colds they have had and they recovered within a short time. However, I do know people who have been seriously harmed from the COVID vaccine.

I am not in any way suggesting there have not been deaths associated with the COVID virus nor am I trying to minimize the grief of the families who have lost someone. However, I also do my research and know that the majority of deaths have occurred in the elderly population in nursing homes and/or people with many comorbidities and that 99.9% of the population is NOT at risk of dying from this virus.

And yet, now that there is an experimental vaccine, it is being proposed that all of our rights be permanently taken away unless we submit to a vaccine that has many thousands of adverse events of serious, life-threatening illnesses and long-term potential disabilities and side effects, including death and miscarriages, that are being reported daily to the CDC's VAERS system, yet are largely ignored by mainstream media and state health departments.

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Any medical intervention, including the COVID vaccine and other vaccines, should be a personal choice. If someone chooses to get this or any other vaccine that is their right. But no individual should be forced into denying their own beliefs, medical history or conscience due to mandates or other coercion by the government, businesses or employers to be vaccinated.

It is our God given right to bodily autonomy and to personally reject this or any other medical intervention. Individuals should not be discriminated against and denied the right to work, shop, travel, attend school, participate in activities, or otherwise live their lives in the manner they see fit for themselves and their children or to be forced to disclose their vaccination or other health status. Neither should they be segregated or diminished and marginalized for their decisions to exercise their freedoms or be forced to wear a mask as punishment when they are otherwise healthy individuals.

We should not have our humanity stripped and suddenly be forced to exist in a world where every person is now suspect of being diseased or sick unless wearing a face covering, submitting to constant testing or submitting to a potentially harmful vaccine that has not been proven to prevent people from contracting or transmitting the virus. There has to be a recognition among lawmakers and rational individuals of how truly insane that world would be and how much worse it will get.

In this time where we are making greater strides toward inclusivity and sensitivity to the harms of past discriminations of marginalized groups in terms of social justice, economic opportunity, pay equity and employment opportunity, you are now considering the adoption of practices or allowing others to adopt practices that would usher in a new era of “Jim Crow” segregation and discrimination that would marginalize those citizens who make a personal choice not to be vaccinated. This will be as devastating as anything we have seen in the past when people are forced to choose or be denied employment, housing, the ability to receive services or exercise their freedoms under the U.S. Constitution and in a democratic state. No government entity or business should have the right to discriminate against its citizens, their employees or customers on the basis of health decisions or vaccination status or for any other reason.

I am asking that you put partisan politics aside and do the right thing and vote YES on House Bill 248. Stop the insanity and protect our Constitution, our liberty and our God given right to choose and live accordingly! There is no issue that is more pressing for the General Assembly in Ohio.

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

Sincerely,
Gay Williams
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