

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.

I am a wife, mother of three adult children and a homemaker. My husband has been, and is currently, employed by Janssen Pharmaceuticals as a Principal Engineer for the past 10 years. He has been employed with Johnson & Johnson for a total of 20 years. I am writing on behalf of myself, my husband and our children as this is of the utmost concern and will affect us all. The passage of HB 248 is imperative and needs to be done with urgency for the following reasons:

- 1.) HB 248 supports and upholds our freedoms of medical autonomy. We have always had the right as competent adults to make our own informed decision about our medical care without coercion or fear of discrimination. As Ohioans, we have always had the right to accept or deny treatment of any kind. Until Covid 19 entered the picture, we have never been forced to take a medical intervention or treatment to participate in society, let alone against our will and without our consent. If businesses, schools, employers, etc. are not stopped by law from forcing/mandating any medical intervention/treatment as a condition to purchase goods and services, participate, or to be employed, in essence, this is what will be allowed to happen here in Ohio. HB 248 supports the freedom to squarely puts medical choice in the hands of the individual, where it should always be, NOT in the hands of a businesses, schools, employers, etc.
- 2.) HB 248 supports our fundamental rights to medical privacy. The notion of having to provide medical records, or a "passport", in order to engage in society completely destroys this right and will cause undo harm and will lead to segregation and discrimination.
- 3.) HB 248 supports the historical medical practice of vaccine choice being that of the individual, to accept or deny with all benefits and risks associated being that of the patient themselves vs. the notion that an individual needs to be forcibly vaccinated in order to protect others. Forcing another human being to take any and all medical risks for the protection of others falls squarely against our individual freedoms and the concept of personal responsibility.
- 4.) HB 248 supports the stance of medical freedom from one of our founding fathers Dr. Benjamin Rush, signer to the Declaration of Independence and personal physician to George Washington.

"The Constitution of this Republic should make special provision for medical freedom. To restrict the art of healing to one class will constitute the Bastille of medical science. All such laws are un-American and despotic. ... Unless we put medical freedom into the constitution the time will come when medicine will organize into an undercover dictatorship and force people who wish doctors and treatment of their own choice to submit to only what the dictating outfit offers." Attributed to Dr. Benjamin Rush.

Is this not where Ohio and America stand now?

If forced vaccination is allowed in Ohio, it will trample our constitutionally protected civil liberties: freedom of conscience, freedom of religion, freedom of medical choice, and our rights to privacy. It will pave the way for untold future forced medical treatments and interventions upon the

individual and society as a whole. It will erode the American ideal of personal responsibility. It will create discrimination.

A physician whom I highly regard and respect recently said that supporting the passage of HB 248 "is the hill to die on" and I couldn't agree more. Let us all be reminded: there is inherent risks in almost everything in life. By simply being born, we bear these risks that cannot always be removed. The two are enjoined firmly and try as we might to separate, many times to the detriment of others, we cannot. There needs to be acceptance of this inherent risk, from a personal and societal perspective. To chase any other notion is a race that will never be won.

Lastly, for this written record itself and for those who read it, I feel it is important to know that myself and my family are not "anti-vaccines". As children, my husband and I, under the care of our parents, received the recommended vaccinations during the 1960's. We provided the same care for our own children at the recommendation of their pediatrician in the mid 90's. As adults, we have all continued to make our own risk/benefit analysis when seeking any additional vaccines as warranted.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for the need for HB 248 and the urgency with which it needs to be passed. Please note that I have attached my witness form to this email.

Sincerely,

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