

June 2, 2021

To the Ohio House Health Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB 248. As a Respiratory Therapist and a Mother of two, I believe it is crucial to keep family medical decisions as private as possible in order to protect us from discrimination of any kind. It is our right, as American citizens, to make our own medical decisions without being coerced in order to enjoy the same freedoms as everyone else. Currently, at my job, we are all still required to wear a mask when in common areas and in face-to-face settings with patients. However, when in small meetings (2-3 people) we can unmask if we are vaccinated for Covid-19. In the very same message, though, they remind employees to refrain from asking other employees their vaccination status because it is not yet mandated, it is still a personal choice and it is personal health information. This is completely contradictory of the protocol update stating that we can unmask in small groups of 2-3 people if vaccinated/mutually agreed upon. I have never felt so alienated or discriminated against in my life. It is infuriating that I must disclose my vaccination status (without verbally saying it) by always having to wear my mask. It is unfair and completely discriminatory. I should not have to feel alienated in any situation, let alone at my workplace where I have worked for 8 years, due to my personal medical choices. The same applies to my children. My innocent, perfectly healthy children should never be alienated or discriminated against for medical decisions made on their behalf. My kids should never be coerced or forced into receiving any type of medical intervention OR into disclosing their vaccination status just to attend school, participate in sports, get a job or travel.

Moreover, I am attaching a message from my company's main page. It is disturbing in the sense that they are encouraging employees to act against HB 248 because it will allow childhood disease to return to Ohio and they are considering the passing of HB 248 to be a threat to public health. In fact, HB 248 does nothing to medically coerce anyone who wants to vaccinate against vaccinating! HB 248 is meant to protect our health choices, medical decisions and our medical freedom in order to prevent discrimination of any kind. If citizens want to vaccinate themselves and their children, that is perfectly OK. If citizens decide not to vaccinate themselves or their children, then that should be just as perfectly OK. This all comes down to protecting our medical freedom, not a debate on whether to vaccinate or not. I strongly support the passing of HB 248 and I urge you all to as well.

God Bless You All,

Rosalynn Allie