

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holms, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion and give testimony on House Bill 248.

I find myself deeply in support of this legislation and am getting involved in the political process for the first time in many years for a number of reasons.

First, my family is a little microcosm of Ohio. We are divided on the COVID vaccinations. Some are getting vaccinated, some are not. We have lively discussions, too! One of our daughters is a critical care nurse in Columbus and treats seriously ill COVID patients every day. Another daughter works at Starbucks and hands people their coffee through the drive-thru window. Our son is mildly disabled but works very hard at his cleaning job and serves in his church many times every week. My wife and I are real estate agents serving the needs of central Ohioans every day. My work finds me in an out of homes and businesses every day. More about my occupational risks later! We are all very involved in this community, but we have a variety of views about the vaccines. We all have our opinions, and as adults, all have to make up our own minds as to what medical treatments we seek out. This freedom of choice is crucial to parenting responsible adults, and we could not be prouder of our kids. **Every adult in Ohio deserves the freedom to choose whether to receive a vaccination or not.**

Secondly, my background is in the biomedical sciences (before real estate). My wife and I met working in an entymology research lab sequencing insect DNA. This background has led to some very serious concerns as to the possible short-term and long-term effects of these rushed vaccinations. The typical testing time for a new vaccine has traditionally been almost 10 years. But these new vaccines have been rushed into mass use for a serious illness that still only has a 1% mortality rate, and that mortality is very concentrated among older people with pre-existing health issues (obesity being one of the main factors, or other respiratory issues). In addition, any attempt to report vaccine deaths or complications are being marginalized or squashed by many media outlets. An abundance of caution has been the traditional approach to new medications, but these new vaccines have been eerily rushed into wide-spread use with little to no information on possible side effects. My choice and the choice of many people is to wait and see what these side effects might be. We deserve that choice and not to be made to feel like “anti-vaxxers” for having conscientious and thoughtful concerns as to the efficacy and potential side-effects to these new vaccinations. **We need our right to abstain from the vaccines to be protected.**

Finally, my business as a real estate broker (small business owner too!) takes me into many venues every week. Many, many homes and many, many businesses! And I love every minute of it! But the prospect of living in a state that would even consider the use of “vaccine passports” has a chilling effect. The invasion of privacy by such a prospect is truly breathtaking! The passage of HIPPA laws were a welcome and much-needed preservation of the privacy of each person’s medical information. The prospect of a vaccine passport would be an outrageous violation of this privacy. Try to imagine attempting to have lunch with a client and the establishment requires inspection of every person’s Vaccine Passport before entry? I’m in no

hurry to get one of the rushed vaccines, so that one private and thoughtful medical decision could have a serious impact on my business and operation.

For these reasons I support House Bill 248. It would protect the rights of every Ohioan to make their own medical choices, and it will insure the privacy of those choices.