

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 testifying in writing as a strong proponent of HB248, the Vaccine Choice and Anti-Discrimination Act.

My name is Savanna Rose Banner, I am a licensed practical nurse from Cleveland Ohio and I am in support of House Bill 248.

Since becoming a nurse, I've not underestimated my ability to leave an impact on another person's life, the flexibility and resilience of the human body is surely impeccable. I have earned my ability to make a difference, through education, building a rapport, creating a foundation built on trust. As it is surely every patient's choice whether they choose to allow me into their most vulnerable States, a glimpse inside their head, and to take a leap of faith.

Each and every day, Healthcare professionals such as myself, have chosen to leave our own baggage at the door, our biased opinions, religious views, and sometimes, putting a hold on our own basic needs. This to me, is what living life with a servant LED heart is about. Meeting the needs of the people, other than your own self in an attempt to heal and help the greater good, by choice.

A vaccine mandate in place would simply mean, people are being faced with no longer having a choice or voice for themselves or their loved ones. A vaccine mandate is subjecting oneself to what may or may not be right for our own individual health journeys. Forcing one to again, set aside our own personal or religious beliefs, a vaccine mandates strips us away from using our natural abilities to thrive amongst adversity.

In a world that currently insists on trusting science, I along with many others have not been afforded the chance to compare and contrast, let alone digest all the information that we've obtained. In just over 16 months, roughly our entire world has been in the rather constant state of "fight or flight." Not to mention many of our basic psychosocial needs, continued to be unmet. In a world that encourages us to continue to trust science, we've been subjecting ourselves to become not only more susceptible to infection but, depression, PTSD, fear, and anxiety. We've not been given an honest chance to properly compartmentalize which is best for ourselves and our families. What happened to Maslow's hierarchy of needs?

As I understand, the information and cdc guidance is put out for the people, almost as quickly as it is gathered. However, the average person is unlikely to frequent the data that is accessible to them. In turn, we have media outlets, politicians, famous actors, athletes and so on and so forth influencing the population, potentially swaying others on what should be a very personal, informed healthcare decision. These favored outlets are spewing highlights for those who don't wish to read between the lines. I can't help but feel, it's creating a false sense of hope in a biased representation of the entire health system as a whole. Suddenly, so many Health Care Professionals, myself included and others who have spent long hours of research, using observation, and education, are being censored, simply for using critical thinking skills and veering away from a fear-based narrative.

The once vulnerable human beings and patients that took a leap of faith in trusting me as their nurse, as well as many other healthcare workers, are quickly losing their credibility with the population, simply for thinking outside the box. The Non Healthcare professionals that have nothing to lose are not being held liable for misinformation. They continue to voice statements based on another's opinions or general conglomeration of biased information, the overall consensus is not being afforded the opportunity to a wider range of information, that is not informed consent that is corecian.

I myself along with many other Healthcare Professionals have had to voluntarily subject myself to weekly testing for covid, only so I may be able to continue to perform my job, all in my best attempt and duty as a healthcare professional, to alleviate the concerns of those on the outside as well as the inside, knowing quite well I am not sick! Despite the fact that I have adhered to the strict guidelines of social distancing, mask, wearing, and keeping my communications as well as physical interactions, with my very own loved ones to an absolute minimum. Not only have I neglected my own morals, values, and personal beliefs, i've also not been able to meet my own psychosocial needs for maintaining optimal Health for myself! This is one of the most basic components that continues to keep the immune system functioning at its most optimal level. So, despite not having symptoms of any illnesses, being young and healthy, I've had to take time out of my personal days just to take a test to be proven healthy! Never once in the past 16 months have I tested positive for covid or any other illness to my knowledge. Nor have those in my immediate household, despite being exposed multiple times. All in an attempt just to keep food on the table, a roof over my family's head, and to continue doing the service that I love most, to be of service for those in need.

As i've pondered, I find myself wondering, will there be a time when I no longer have to prove to others just how capable I am of caring about them, for them, for the ones they love? It shouldn't be a question, these are choices and we each have had one to make. I am not in disregard for the people or the science, I am not denying some of the information and guidance out there. However, I just want factual long-term data, unbiased information, freedom of expression without

segregation, ridicule, or censorship at that. We want to be involved in the changes, because our input should matter.

The truth is many people are making choices quickly, not well thought-out logical decisions, but those based off of emotions from a fear driven point. 16 months of continuous “fight or flight” responses from a parasympathetic/autonomic nervous system response. Many of which some people are noticing the effects of such, within themselves for the very first time in their lives, operating at such a high stress place can cause clouded judgment.

I have personally made observations based on what I know, and what I've seen within this pandemic as well as speculations on adverse and questionable reactions of the vaccine. From the information that we know thus far. if I am to be questioned and censored for my own personal reality, then why isnt anyone questioning the fact that were allowing the history to repeat itself, the Discrimination and segregation this is caused amongst the many human beings that now walk this Earth. The discrimination has happened because I myself have fallen victim to the effects of being discriminated against. My own patients, i've had family members, co-workers and friends look down upon me, for a choice that is simply MY CHOICE to make. Lastly, I want my health care choices to remain my own. In a world where we've embraced equality, we must remember that not all one size fits, us all.

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

Sincerely,

Savanna Rose Banner, LPN