

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

My name is Jessica Bettendorf and I am a registered nurse and a mother of 3 bright and beautiful children. One main reason I support House Bill 248 is because as a nurse I believe in adhering to the principles of justice, beneficence, nonmaleficence, accountability, and autonomy! I have always believed in patients having the right to be in charge of their own healthcare with medical professionals alongside them for assistance.

I remember when I graduated nursing school in front of my family and friends promising the Florence Nightingale pledge solemnly vowing myself before God and in the presence of the assembly to live my life in healthfulness and to practice my profession faithfully, as well as abstaining from whatever is malicious to my patients and that I would not administer any harmful drugs knowingly. How do we know that the covid -19 vaccine is safe, when it is just so new?

As a nurse, I would not treat my patients any differently if they chose not to get an experimental vaccine or any vaccine for that matter. Again, that is where the patient is in charge of their own personal healthcare.

As a mother of a daughter who has had heart arrhythmia issues, I do not want to force her to get a vaccine that could potentially cause her to have adverse reactions to this newly developed vaccine. Not every person's health is the same, therefore we should all have the choice of what medications we choose to put into our bodies.

I hope as a mother that I teach my kids that we must take a stand for what we feel passionate about. And I wholeheartedly believe in medical freedom. I will also continue to care for my patients with dignity as well as respect their personal choices when it comes to their own health.

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

Respectfully,  
Jessica Bettendorf RN-BSN