

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, Sponsor Gross and Members of the committee,

I am writing this in hopes that you will stand up for the rights and freedoms of the people of Ohio. As you are very well aware, over the past year, Governor Dewine has disregarded our rights and freedoms all in the name of public safety and his never-ending health orders. We are currently taking these “health orders” from Stephanie McCloud who is not a doctor or a qualified health director. This is my proponent testimony in support of HB-248. This is a strong bill protecting Ohioans against discrimination based on vaccination status and invasive vaccine mandates in both public and private entities. It not only protects an individual's rights to make their own decisions regarding Covid-19, but it also protects against current employer vaccine mandates and any vaccine that they may try to mandate in the future. According to our elected leader, Governor Dewine stated those who do not want to receive the vaccine for the coronavirus are putting others at high risk and we need to get them all vaccinated. Since when does a vaccine injected into your own body protect others? This is unlike any other vaccine on the market. The law does not state require us to go against our own personal health decisions for this “righteous” act of “protecting” others but it does allow us the individual freedom and right to protect ourselves and our families. I truly believe that this vaccine is more harm to myself and my family and I should be allowed the choice.

The first thing I want to discuss is the state of emergency per the Ohio Revised Code (ORC)- Section 3715.74 (D)- “A public health state of emergency declared under this section shall exist for not more than sixty days unless extended by the governor for an additional thirty-day period, at which time the public health state of emergency shall end unless it is extended by a concurrent resolution adopted by both houses of the general assembly.” This was never followed and Governor Dewine is acting as a sole trial and jury by holding Ohioans hostage for a virus with a 99.97 percent survival rate and the same year the flu has just suddenly vanished which has killed more people in the last several years than Covid-19 has since it's insurgency.

As someone who has been following the unfolding of the Covid crisis closely over the past 14 months, I am well aware that SB 22 was passed with a veto override and I am glad the legislative branches were able to get something done. I know this passes into law late June, early July of this year as well. However, with the talk now of the vaccine for Covid-19 becoming mandatory and the potential to require vaccine passports, this may have all been for nothing. It is vitally important that you all support HB-248. HB-248 is supposed to protect both the public and the private sector of citizens from this form of medical tyranny and what I would consider also to be abuse. As Representative Jennifer Gross stated in her testimony for the sponsor of the bill, some feel this is unnecessary as no one is planning to mandate a vaccine passport with regards to the Covid vaccine. There has also been talk that the governor is going to link people's freedom to whether or not they received the vaccine as he stated, “We are actually looking at that,” Dewine said, we don't have anything to announce. But we are looking at that. We are looking at any kind of measures that tell people where we're going and what we have to do achieve it. We're not ruling that out at all.”

-The law regarding Face Masks-

In the state of Ohio, face masks (or facial coverings as they are cultishly referred to) are regulated as a medical device. Even just recommending that someone wear a regulated medical device (mask) is an unlicensed practice of medicine. According to the ORC 4731.41 and 4731.34, this violation is a 5th

degree felony. Even under licensed medical care, a person still has the right to choose whether to wear that device or not. Forcing a customer to wear a mask to enter your business is illegal under the Federal Civil Rights Law, Title II, which requires that a place of public accommodation, your business must provide free and equal access to all services and facilities, without discrimination. The Ohio law, ORC 4112.02 further prohibits you from preventing entry to the full enjoyment of this business establishment.

This law, regarding HB-248, needs to pass and become effective immediately so as for businesses who ignore the law are subject to penalties and fines. If this does not pass then as far as I am concerned our great state of Ohio has taken away our citizens liberties and there is no coming back from it. While many of the places I've contacted have stated they will not and do not plan to require a person to be vaccinated to enter, it does not mean that it will never happen. Multiple states have decided to mandate vaccine passports and if we don't enact this bill our freedom will be a constant risk. Without a bill to protect against our personal choice of vaccines, companies will state the following, "this is our private business and we can do as we please". These businesses are violating Ohio law under the ORC. I personally encountered a business just last week that refused me service and would not allow me to purchase the items I had already been collecting in the store once they were made aware I was not wearing a face mask. I was given the ultimatum of "wear a mask or leave without your items." I chose to leave without my items because that was the only choice I felt I was in control over and had the FREEDOM to do. This is unacceptable in our great state. The mere audacity of treating other citizens as if they are diseased parasites that are not welcome in your place of business unless you abide by "health" orders that are recommended against by your personal physician. I am a healthy 31-year-old female with no underlying health issues for me to be treated as if I have some form of leprosy.

I will include another personal account regarding this matter. I am a certified pharmacy technician and have been in this field since 2015. I currently am located in the Cleveland area and I work in a pharmacy that provides the meds needed for residents of long-term care facilities, hospice and home care. As technicians in this setting, we do not ever come in contact with the public. Meds are sent out and all transactions are dealt with over the phone. We have been required to wear masks at all times in our building since April of 2020. As of May 20th, my company has updated their former mask policy to allowing those who have been "fully vaccinated" not to be required to wear a mask. I cannot take the vaccine due to personal reasons of religion and health. That is blatant workplace discrimination against me. I am again being treated as a diseased parasite or a leper that is a threat to others' health and wellbeing, all for not getting a vaccine that is only injected into my body and does not affect anyone else but me. This treatment of employees sets the workplace back a full 60-70 years. We have come so far as a nation in addressing discrimination in the workplace to end up here in the year 2021 and after. I'm sure I don't need to tell you but as it is stated on the EEOC website: "Under the **laws** enforced by EEOC, it is illegal to **discriminate** against someone (applicant or **employee**) because of that person's race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information."

We have rights under HIPAA to protect our personal health information but this bill would further protect my rights from this discrimination in the workplace. We need more healthcare privacy to be able to keep our private health information private from businesses and places of employment. My rights have been trampled on the past year. I am now required to send Covid-19 test results to my employer, have my temperature checked at any time upon entering the building and provide vaccine proof if I am to receive the vaccine. This is too invasive of my private healthcare information. We need HB-248 to maintain our healthcare privacy.

As you more than likely know, the state of New York decided to mandate vaccine passports in order to enter their state. However, in the states of Florida and Texas, where their governors believe that people have rights and freedoms, they have signed an executive order against this form of medical tyranny and coercion. Members of the legislative branch have stated that our governor is not going to make the

vaccine mandatory. But just last April, Amy Acton, the health director at the time then stated the following:

“We would love in some countries they’re looking at certificates to say you’re immune (to covid-19) and therefore you’re able to go about your business. It would be a dream if we were able to get something like that.”

Now here we are in May 2021 and vaccine passports are becoming a reality just as Acton stated over a year ago, almost as if she knew in advance that we’d be here in a year. Her replacement, Stephanie McCloud is not even a qualified Health Director and I am not sure why this isn’t being addressed. My guess is because this has become political theater and not about saving lives at all.

Recently on May 12, 2021, Governor Dewine has announced that all health orders will be lifted on June 2nd. I guess the virus is magically disappearing that day. Notice he is also doing this after Memorial Day to keep people in fear and businesses from thriving during a holiday weekend. Now, he also stated the following in regards to the vaccine,

“Beginning Wednesday May 26th, and continuing for five Wednesdays, Ohioans who receive at least one dose of the vaccine would be eligible to enter one of two drawings- one for those under 17 and the other for all adults in Ohio. For residents under 17 who have been vaccinated, the winner will receive a full, four-year scholarship to a State of Ohio University. The scholarship would include, tuition, room and board, and books, Dewine said. In a separate drawing for Ohio adults who have received at least one dose of their first of the vaccine, the prize will be \$1 million. To be eligible to win, you must be an Ohio resident at least 18 or older on the day of the drawing and you must be vaccinated before the drawing.”

Now this is from the ORC (Ohio Revised Code) Section 2915.092

“The Ohio Governor is not a 501(c)3 or a 501(a) and cannot legally operate a prize giveaway (raffle) whether it is for profit or not for profit in the state of Ohio.”

We have already witnessed countless time, our elected officials trampling over the constitution of Ohio. We have had no one to stand up for us during this past year and no one to hold our elected officials accountable to the law. I please ask that you consider just that. To stand up for the citizens of Ohio’s rights and freedoms as we are given by the state of Ohio and the United States Constitution.

Please do your part and stand up for those of us who have not been giving the opportunity to stand up for ourselves this past year and can do nothing else but write this letter. The fate of our state and our society depends on this bill passing. Please vote “yes” on HB-248 and pass immediately into law.

We must do this for our futures and for our children’s future’s and protect Ohioans from vaccine discrimination both now and always.

Thank you for your time,