

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.

My name is James Bridgens and I am an engineer. I support House Bill 248 because it is my natural right to choose what is put in my body. My full statement is below.

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

*Sincerely,
James L. Bridgens*

My name is James Bridgens. I live in Ohio and am a resident of Madison, in Lake county. I am 65 years of age. I served my country as an Electrician's Mate on a submarine. Currently I am an engineer in the power industry. I am an officer in my local American Legion post. This is a personal testimony as a proponent of House Bill 248, The Vaccine Choice and Anti-Discrimination Act, and not for any individual, organization or business.

My rights come from God, not from a political body. The foundation of our republic, The Declaration of Independence clearly states this. How does a "a person, political subdivision, public official, or state agency" put itself above God and "require" a vaccination? The question is of course rhetorical; It does not and cannot.

Medical decisions are personal decisions. Does more need to be said? Apparently so. I believe the above is the only reason needed to decide not to be vaccinated. The recent SARS-CoV-2 virus response has shown us why the decision must be personal, and not forced or coerced. Political alliances have led to misinformation, downright fear-mongering, frightened citizens and inflated death rates. Our representatives have allowed an under-tested, experimental vaccine, created by companies, to which they have granted legal immunity, to be administered to their constituents. This, for a virus which is easily treated successfully in most cases, having a survival rated overall of 99.7%, without a vaccine. It is my personal decision the benefit of an experimental drug, coerced into production under false pretenses and a veil of political theater for a minuscule risk of death does not out weigh the risk. Others may disagree, and I support their choice to their personal decision.

Our representatives are representatives under a republican form of government. This is guaranteed to the individual by the U.S. Constitution. A republic protects individual rights, not the rights of the majority. Representatives, you must vote to protect all rights, my rights, your rights, their rights. You cannot do that by voting against HOUSE Bill 248.