

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 Guillermo Caal, I am an Electrical Engineer, Quality professional and a Naturopath. I worked for more than 20 years in three of the biggest companies in America and have my private naturopathic practice. The reasons why I support this bill are the following:

I was born in a Latin American country where freedom and liberty are just a dream, and where discrimination is rampant. Since becoming an American citizen and living in the US, I came to realize the great value of freedom and liberty for all, that have been beacons of light of this great country. In Ohio, I have witnessed how people from different races, religions and backgrounds, interact productively and peacefully, without discrimination. We should never take these values for granted and we must protect them.

When my son was just a baby, a series of vaccines he received at his regular pediatrician visit resulted in a significant reaction that really scared us. Although it is clear to me that this does not happen to most children that get vaccinated, it is also clear that it happens to some. In my opinion, this is one of the most important reasons why any medical procedure, including vaccination, should remain a choice and not be forced.

Many years later, as I started my private naturopathic practice, I have had the opportunity to work with children, teenagers, and adults that according to them had been harmed by vaccines. In some of those cases, the individuals in question were perfectly healthy prior to receiving the vaccine, and immediately after getting it they became severely and chronically ill. I understand that their testimonies do not represent proof that a vaccine was at fault, but I believe we cannot discard what they have experienced, and we cannot discriminate against them in the workplace, in schools and colleges, and in any other social activity.

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

Sincerely,

Guillermo Caal

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