

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 Tara Calderaro, and I am the mother of two vaccine injured children as well as being vaccine injured myself. I support House Bill 248 and ask you to do the same.

As a child, I suffered grand mal seizures for five years as a result of receiving childhood vaccines. My seizures began at age two and lasted until age 7. [Recommended vaccines for a child in the 1970's were Diphtheria\\*, Tetanus\\*, Pertussis\\* Polio \(OPV\), Measles\\*\\*, Mumps\\*\\* Rubella\\*\\* \(\\* Given in combination as DTP \\*\\* Given in combination as MMR\).](#)<sup>1</sup> Which one vaccine or combination of those vaccines that caused the seizures was never determined. I was resuscitated approximately a dozen times in those 5 years. I would lose consciousness and stop breathing. I had numerous EEG (electroencephalogram) tests, as well as a battery of other tests to determine the cause of those seizures. Eventually I was placed on phenobarbital to control the seizures. I was not epileptic, nor had any other medical condition that would have caused the seizures. The seizures stopped once the vaccinations stopped, and I was eventually weaned of the medication. The doctors could only surmise that the seizures were a reaction to one or more of the vaccines.

I did not become aware that my childhood vaccines were discontinued at age 7 until far after my own children were born and vaccinated, which was sadly too late for me to research and make an informed decision as to whether to vaccinate my own children or not.

When my daughter was born in 1995 and when my son was born in 2002, little information was available regarding vaccines and the potential side effects and risks. I was told by my doctor, pediatricians, and the medical community at large, that you must vaccinate your children to protect them from disease, and that the vaccines were safe. Never once did I receive any information regarding the risks. A general consent form was placed in front of me, which consisted of a page of lines and lines of tiny, fine print. I was told that it was standard protocol and that the chances of any adverse reactions

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-history/developments-by-year>

were extremely rare. I was never given information or options. Trusting my daughter's pediatrician, I vaccinated her. It was a one-size fits all approach. I was simply told that all babies/children get vaccinated. [Recommended vaccines for children in 1995 were Diphtheria\\*, Tetanus\\*, Pertussis\\*, Measles\\*\\*, Mumps\\*\\*, Rubella\\*\\*, Polio, \(OPV\), Hib, Hepatitis B \(\\* Given in combination as DTP. \\*\\* Given in combination as MMR\). As well as Varicella \(chickenpox - 1996\), rotavirus \(1998-1999; 2006, 2008\); hepatitis A \(2000\); pneumococcal vaccine \(2001\), influenza \(2002\); hepatitis A \(2006\).](#)<sup>2</sup>

Like a "good parent" I followed the recommended vaccine schedule. The results? My daughter is on the Autism spectrum. She was born without complications and was a healthy newborn/infant. She hit all her baby developmental milestones (holding up head, rolling over, etc. at all the appropriate ages according to the pediatrician). Her signs of Autism began at age two. In 1995, Autism was not as prevalent as it is today, and I had never even heard of it at that time. I just thought she was quirky because her symptoms were relatively mild. She also began to have horrific eczema at age 3, as well as asthma and was put on asthma medication. She struggled with, and still does to this day, maintaining adequate blood oxygen saturation levels. At age 10, she was diagnosed with low IgG (Immunoglobulin G), which means she was prone to infections more than other people. Did I equate it to the vaccines at the time? No. Simply because I didn't know any better. I believed in what the medical community was telling me. And I had no idea that my daughter's medical issues and suffering was caused by immunizations. I didn't make that correlation until years later, after much research.

In 2002, I gave birth to my son. Like my daughter, he too was born without complications after a normal pregnancy. He too, hit all the baby developmental milestones. I followed the recommended vaccine protocol from him as well, once again relying on and trusting my son's pediatrician. [Recommended vaccines for 2002 were Diphtheria\\*, Tetanus\\*, Pertussis\\*, Measles\\*\\*, Mumps\\*\\*, Rubella\\*\\*, Polio \(IPV\), Hib, Hepatitis B, Varicella, Hepatitis A.](#)<sup>3</sup>

My son began to show signs of Autism in the form of verbal regression at age 2.5. By age 3.5 he was nearly non-verbal. The words that he had learned had disappeared. He

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-history/developments-by-year>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-history/developments-by-year>

developed idiopathic scoliosis at age 9. And was diagnosed with myocardial infraction and mitral valve prolapse (heart conditions) at age 16. Is any of this caused by vaccines? I whole-heartedly believe so and many would agree.

I could continue detailing every medical, emotional, social, and physical challenge that each of my children have had regarding Autism and illness. I could tell you of all the treatment, therapy, and medication my children have had to undergo. And we could debate whether vaccines were the cause behind my children's Autism, my childhood seizures, my daughter's asthma, my son's heart condition, all the frequent ear infections, and respiratory infections, etc. But I am not submitting my proponent testimony to tell you of their woes, or my speculations or beliefs or theories.

I am submitting testimony because the experiences I have had, came from not having the information to make an informed decision and in essence, not being able to choose what was right for my children. This is about having the basic, God-given right to choose what is done to my body, our bodies, and the bodies of our children.

We, the people of Ohio must have the right to choose whether or not to have ANY vaccine; to choose to take the Covid injection, or to choose to not take it. We must be able to live and choose freely, without ultimatum. The directive "take the Covid injection or wear a mask until you do" is outrageous. It goes back to the "one-size-fit- all approach". Medicine is not one-size-fits-all. Is there no consideration for those who cannot do either?

We must not be discriminated against if we choose to not wear a mask and to not inject ourselves or our children, with substances that may not be appropriate/healthy for us as individuals. Only we, as individuals, can and should be the ones to determine if a vaccine/injection is the right choice for us medically, ethically, morally, religiously, or philosophically. There is no decision more intimate, more personal, than the choice to put something into our bodies, that will unequivocally affect our body in some way. There is no medical procedure that is one-size-fits-all, and that includes vaccines/injections.

We should not be forced to choose to work to feed our families or have a vaccine. We should not be made to choose between an education, or a vaccine. We should not be made to show our vaccine status to the grocery clerk to be allowed to buy food. We should not be forced to disclose personal information simply to live life.

To do anything less than guarantee the right to choose our medical care, to do anything less than guarantee freedom from discrimination, is regression. Regressing back to 1945 when the Jews had to show their papers in order to simply live. Regressing back to the 1960's, when we were segregated by race. Is that really where we want to take Ohio?

My family as well as so many other Ohioans have had to put up with absurd mandates, and unfounded "science" for 15 months. It is time to get back to common sense, civil liberties, and God-given freedoms.

To close my testimony, I would like to end with two quotes:

"When we give government the power to make medical decisions for us, we in essence accept that the state owns our bodies."- Ron Paul

"If people let the government decide what foods they eat and what medicines they take, their bodies will soon be in as sorry a state as are the souls of those who live under tyranny." - Thomas Jefferson

I am not anti-vaccine. I am pro-medical freedom, pro-informed consent, pro-bodily autonomy. Simply put, to not support HB 248 is a violation of basic human rights.

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

Sincerely,  
Tara Calderaro