

Dear 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 Annette Chase and I am retired teacher who was permanently injured by a pharmaceutical product in 2013. I support House Bill 248 because I understand that medical choices need to be made on an individual basis and those choices need to remain just that – CHOICES. No pharmaceutical product works for everyone and all pharmaceutical products come with risks. I also support House Bill 248 because I believe that no one should be discriminated against due to any medical decisions they may make for themselves.

My medical injury left me battling chronic pain and chronic fatigue. I know what it is like to go from an active and healthy life to a world of suffering in just a matter of days. No doctor has been able to help me post-injury. I spend my days working to improve my health through diet and exercise (as tolerated). Instead of planning hiking and biking trips with friends as I did years ago, I spend my days planning out a carefully selected diet and working out how to best utilize my limited energy to make it out to the grocery stores and complete daily chores. I know I am not alone. There are hundreds of thousands of people just like me in this country...maybe even millions. For some of us, life has become a day by day existence. My health is now fragile. My doctor has recommended that I NOT take the covid vaccine due to my condition.

There are some who claim that vaccines must be mandated or required for entry to protect people like me- people who are immune-compromised or who cannot take the vaccine for other medical reasons. I wish to make it clear that I would NEVER want any person to accept a vaccine or other medical treatment **for me**. I have learned about possible pharmaceutical risks the hard way. The thought that someone else would take the covid vaccine or any other treatment to protect me with the possibility that they end up with my health problems is UNFATHOMABLE. I would rather take my chances with my own life (possibly getting covid or another disease) than to have even one more person end up with daily suffering. It doesn't matter how small the risk may be- what matters is that there ARE risks. Where there is risk, there MUST be choice. People should be informed of the risks and make their decisions based on their own health and life, not for the sake of others.

I also support HB248 because it would guarantee that people would not be discriminated against based on the medical decisions they make for themselves. As I work to regain my health, I do not wish to be excluded from society because I do not believe that is healthy. I have spent the last 14 months abiding by the Ohio health orders. I have rarely stepped out into society because I cannot wear a mask for any length of time. I understand the effects of social isolation first hand. I do not believe that anyone should spend the rest of their life banned from society or segregated in society based upon their vaccine status because social

isolation leads to worse health outcomes. We live in a free country. Each day carries risks for each one of us. Each individual should be free to weigh the risks and maintain their health as they see fit. Each individual should live their healthiest life based on their own personal health decisions and not the decisions of others.

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

Sincerely,  
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