

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 Christie Combs and I am an accountant for the Department of Defense. There are several reasons why I support House Bill 248 that I would like to share with you today. First, I believe that medical decisions should be made by each individual person in consultation with personal medical professionals. Every person's body is different, and in turn requires support in different ways. A one-size-fits-all approach to medicine simply does not work.

Second, there are many people in my life that would be adversely affected by forced vaccinations. My brother-in-law has a family history of severe reactions from vaccines. Doctors have advised the family against certain vaccines because of those previous reactions. It is completely unethical to insist someone like him choose between taking a medical product that would likely harm him, and being able to participate in society. A good friend of mine had an extreme reaction to an ingredient in her chemo treatment that is also present in one of the Covid-19 vaccines. If she takes that vaccine, it would likely send her into anaphylactic shock as it did previously. She was fortunate to recover from that experience, but it is not a guarantee to happen a second time. Another friend who recently received a Covid-19 vaccine had severe swelling of her lymph nodes and is now being monitored for possible breast cancer development. She is only 31 with two small children. My cousin is currently being harassed by her employer to receive the Covid-19 vaccine, despite it not being FDA approved. Because she has not received it, she is now required to continue wearing a mask, get her temperature checked every morning when she enters the building, and get a Covid test every week. Up until this week nobody was required to get their temperature checked or covid tested in order to work there. This is a clear example of coercion which is incredibly unethical. She should not be discriminated against for not wanting to take a medical product. This also announces to everyone else in the company what her vaccination status is. Medical decisions should remain private at all times unless you choose to disclose them. She now has to decide between providing for her family and continuing being harassed or taking a vaccine that she does not want. These are just a few examples of how requiring vaccinations and allowing discrimination, especially in the workplace, would have a negative impact on individuals and families.

Third, I believe that where there is risk, there must also be choice. The manufacturers themselves list the risks associated with their vaccines. Although the percentages may be small, that risk remains. There are also some risks that remain unknown. For example, section 13.1 of vaccine inserts state that they have not been evaluated for carcinogenic or mutagenic potential, or for impairment of fertility. A product that has the potential to cause cancer or fertility issues should always remain a choice.

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

Sincerely,  
Christie Combs