

To Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Homes, Ranking Member Russo and Members of the House Health Committee:

My name is Monica Nickle-Connors. I am a wife and mother with a paralegal background and I am offering my written testimony in **support of HB 248**. I am a resident of Wood County under Representative Ghanbari. Currently there are 32 Bills in 25 states that have been/are being introduced to prohibit mandatory vaccination requirements by employers and/or the use of a "vaccine passport". It is appalling that we must waste this committee's valuable time and state's money introducing bills to protect our already well established inalienable rights. I hope that you will stand in support of HB 248 for all Ohio citizens and also stand united with states such as Texas, Florida, Alabama, Minnesota, South Carolina, Utah, to prohibit any such mandates that would violate rights, medical freedoms and open doors for discrimination.

Humans are not one size fits all, especially where health, medicine dosages and treatment options are concerned. Not all can or should be vaccinated. Even those who get infected naturally by disease do not always develop antibodies. Therefore, a genetically modified product with no long term safety studies, currently still under an emergency use authorization, should not be required for one to be employed or to participate in society. This will further create discrimination between businesses, employees and patrons in a time when we all should be united in support. This product is still in the experimental phase currently trialing babies and children, a group that was ultimately unaffected by the actual virus a year ago. Therefore, if documentation of a forced medical experiment is forced upon citizens, then the liability for injury and death MUST be placed back on to the manufactures of these products. Even when a regular medical product is properly approved there is still potential for injury and/or death and this is why we are notified of many such potential risks at the end of every medicinal or medical device commercial. Even products properly approved get recalled because they are found to cause uniform harm and/or death in a small number of recipients. Products such as Thalidomide, arsenat, lead, asbestos, radium, DDT, to name a few, all were once introduced to solve a problem but ultimately created more damage causing deterioration of the environment, health of humans and in the example of asbestos, resulting in decades of litigation. Workers were unknowingly and indirectly contaminated with asbestos particles in the workplace, later developing mesothelioma resulting in companies paying out for these injuries caused by this product.

Governor Dewine has deliberately been vague about this burden, passing it on to businesses, as he has done throughout the whole pandemic. Ultimately businesses want to do what is right to protect themselves and their workers but this will become a vicious circle creating unnecessary discrimination. Again, individual business will ultimately be liable if an employee is injured by this or other work-place vaccination requirements because of lost work and/or continued long term medical care due to injury, and later potentially leading to years of litigation. How is it that the manufacturer of a chemically injected medical treatment does not have liability for damage or death that their product may cause but now that burden has shifted to individual companies and business owners? No product is without risk. Risk may not be known for several years. Companies and businesses should stand united and address how come they are held to a different standard than these vaccine making pharmaceutical companies. They should fight to repeal H.R.5546-National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 to put the burden of liability back on to these manufacturers. It should not be the burden of large companies and small businesses to force any medicine or medical treatment on any employee or require documentation by the patrons of their establishments.

I am an Ohio citizen who believes in the constitutional rights of the individual. The quick passage of HB 248 is critical legislation for myself and my family. I believe that Ohioans should have ultimate authority over their health and medical decisions and a right to maintain privacy regarding those decisions. Many Ohio employers are already attempting to mandating COVID-19 vaccines. Some businesses and schools are requiring proof of vaccination for commerce and visitation. Other states and airlines nationwide are attempting to implement vaccine passports. We are also witnessing increasing discriminatory action being taken against the unvaccinated citizens of Ohio.

For the above reasons, I believe HB 248 is more urgent than any other legislation the legislature is currently hearing. Please ensure that HB248 is heard promptly and moves through the process quickly to protect our citizens as soon as possible!

Without the right to dictate our own medical choices and still participate in society, there is no longer freedom.

Thank you for your time, compassion and consideration.

Respectfully yours,
Monica Nickle-Connors