

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Honorable Members of the House Health Committee,

My name is Adam Continenza. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony regarding Sub House Bill 248.

I support this bill for one simple reason: discrimination in a free society is unacceptable. It is unacceptable based on race. It is unacceptable based on disability. It is unacceptable based on belief, religion, political standing, economic status or otherwise. It is unacceptable based on personal health, and moreover unacceptable based on status of pharmaceutical interventions.

Imagine, if you will, a society that decided to ban the vaccinated from accessing the same freedoms and services as the unvaccinated. Of course, that is ridiculous. It would be a dystopian nightmare only seen in books and movies. The same is true of the reverse scenario: banning the unvaccinated from accessing the same freedoms and services as the vaccinated. To be blunt, it is nobody's business but your own what you choose to or choose not to do about your own personal health.

We have unalienable rights guaranteed by both the U.S. and Ohio constitutions. Unfortunately, as a country and society we have so far failed to secure all those rights for all people. As we work toward a better future, we need to continue moving in the right direction, not backsliding into blatant and unjust discrimination. If we are willing to reintroduce segregation into the most basic tenets of our lives (like going to the grocery store), then what are we becoming as a people?

Are we really willing to say it's okay to support medical-based segregation? I know that the answer to this question is a resounding, "No!" Of course we are not willing to support segregation. Not of any kind. We will not stand for discrimination of any kind. To do so would not be moral, nor just, nor righteous. We must not give any person, business or entity the option to implement this type of discrimination. Vaccine status cannot and must not be allowed to dictate our level of participation in society.

It is beyond my comprehension why we need to pass a law to guarantee the right of medical freedom in the first place. The fact that this bill had to be introduced at all is disturbing beyond words. I only hope that the passage of this bill will serve as a guidepost to secure our freedom of choice and freedom to participate in an equitable society. Should the future hold another scenario that leads us to consider implementing systematic discrimination based on personal choice, I hope we can look back to this bill and remember that discrimination of any kind is simply unacceptable.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Adam Continenza