

Hello, my name is Ethan DiCicco. I am a seventeen year old boy who lives in Beavercreek Ohio. I love making music, running, and joking around with my friends.

I try my best to respect others, and I appreciate the values that my parents and community have instilled in me. I attend a private Catholic school and my favorite subject is Government. Every day in class I listen attentively as my teacher thoroughly explains the ins and outs of how our government functions. I have all the amendments memorized, as well as the specifics on fifteen course required Supreme court cases (impressive... I know). I take pride in being an American, and I have faith in the United States Government.

Recently however, I have felt deeply disturbed and afraid for my future in this country. More so now than I have throughout the past year. My family does not believe that receiving the covid shot is right for us. We have had a history with reacting poorly to vaccines, which creates a factor of risk for us that might not be prevalent in the lives of other Americans. We are rightfully skeptical of putting something in our body that has had no long term studies attached to it. We are rightfully skeptical of injecting ourselves with something that a corporation is making profit off of. I respect the right of other people to take this vaccine voluntarily, but I also demand respect for my right not to.

Not only am I being faced with the loss of my medical freedom, I am also being pressured with becoming singled out if I do not submit. I will be treated differently by my peers, teachers, and strangers. In fact I already am. Over the past few months whenever openly admitting to someone that I don't plan on receiving the vaccine I am immediately attacked, even viewed differently by the person I am in conversation with. It deeply saddens me that my own personal experiences and reasons for not receiving the vaccine are immediately disregarded by others, and I am afraid that the same is about to happen in our government. I feel trapped.

The fourteenth Amendment states: "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Yes, I have memorized my amendments, studied my Supreme Court cases, and even learned about what a filibuster is, but undoubtedly the most important concept that I have taken away from my Government class is that my voice matters. Me writing this testimony is a testament in and of itself. A testament that I believe in this concept and have faith that my Government will do the right thing. Vote in favor of my medical freedom, show me that my voice is heard and respected. Please vote "YES" on HB248.

Thank you,

Ethan DiCicco