

## House Bill 248 Testimony - Written Only

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 Sarah Elson and I am a mom of three. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because having a sister with a rare neurological disease I have seen first hand how a medical treatment doesn't always work the same for everyone. Every person has their own unique genetic makeup, and this causes them to respond differently to a medical intervention. What is a miracle for someone is an allergic reaction for another. That is why I am so passionate about House Bill 248 as I believe everyone should have the right to choose their medical treatment. There should never be a one size fits all medical requirement, especially a shot that is still in the experimental stages. Everyone should have the autonomy to make the best medical decision for their personal situation without punishment or discrimination. Health officials have stated the Covid-19 shot does not stop the spread of the disease, nor prevent you from getting it. All it does is lessen your symptoms when you do get it. Therefore, someone choosing not to get the vaccine poses no threat to anyone else and shouldn't be discriminated against or kept from society based on their personal decision. Any medical intervention, whether that is taking a Tylenol or undertaking chemotherapy, has potential side effects. It should always be the patient's right to weigh the cost vs. benefits for them personally and make a medical decision.

I'm concerned that if this bill does not pass, not only will people be forced to take an experimental shot, but other mandated health treatments would be added to a growing list of requirements. Health requirements that wouldn't make sense for some individuals due to their health lifestyle and genetic makeup and may even have adverse effects. I'm concerned that these health requirements would benefit pharmaceutical companies more than the general population but we wouldn't have any recourse and would instead become a societal outcast. Medical treatments and decisions should always be a private and personal choice and I don't want to see that jeopardized. I want my children to be able to grow up in a society where they are free to make their own medical decisions without repercussions.

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

Sincerely,  
Sarah Elson