

Sunday, May 23, 2021

## Proponent Testimony for HB 248

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 Beverly Fanning and I am former 11-year military spouse, mother of two elementary-age children and college educator. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because it is critical those who are unable to- or unwilling to- take a pharmaceutical drug not be forced to do so in order to work, receive an education, travel, or live their daily lives. The bill is essential to an establishing anti-discrimination law based on an individual's personal health choices. There are many reasons an individual may choose not to take a pharmaceutical drug, regardless of it being a vaccine, or steroid, or antibiotic. It is NOT the role of the government in a free society to force a medical decision upon its citizens in order for them to experience and have the basic necessities of life.

My daughter, Cora, was vaccine injured as an infant. She experienced anaphylactic shock after receiving her 4 months vaccinations. It was the scariest time of my life, but not the hardest. The hardest would come in having to fight to get a medical exemption and fight against medical bias and discrimination because she was not fully vaccinated. My daughter has never been a threat to society, yet she has already experienced discrimination because of her vaccine status. Drs offices have turned us away. Daycares have denied our enrollment. A private school even refused to accept our application (yes, with an exemption).

For my daughter, and the thousands of others who have suffered negative effects of pharmaceutical drugs, the risk of taking the drug could be a greater risk then the what it is meant to treat. Unfortunately, when it comes to vaccines, there are few doctors who are educated to recognize and treat vaccine injury. There are even fewer who are willing to risk their reputation and practice to work with the acute and chronically ill to which vaccines played a role. It took four years to get a medical waiver for Cora by a MD at a major medical hospital here in Ohio. For those who think exemptions are enough and easily acquired, they are not.

I support HB 248 because I worry about my daughter's rights when she attends college. I worry about her rights when she starts working. I worry about her rights as an adult, if she will ever have to make the decision to take a pharmaceutical product similar in nature to that which almost cost her life. I worry about myself being mandated to take a drug in order to work on a college campus and how doing so could negatively impact her health through transmission or shedding. This isn't about personal thoughts on the COVID vaccine. This is about any and all pharmaceutical drugs that could be imposed in the near and distant future and not allowing the workplace, business or educational institution to discriminate its citizens over a personal medical decision.

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