

Thursday, May 27, 2021

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony regarding House Bill 248.

My name is Amanda Fatula, and I am currently a homemaker. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because I believe people should be trusted to and have the right to make the best medical choice for themselves. Why is considered satisfactory by some to make a one-sided decision? In order to make an educated choice, one needs to get all the facts and information from both sides. One side telling people exactly what they need to do without giving all the facts, pros and cons, is not an educated choice. With a one-sided argument, you end up creating stigmas and a contentious environment.

When I was a young child, a big news story of the day was the AIDS epidemic. As a child, no one sat me down to talk about the facts. What I learned came from snippets of the news playing in the background or from overhearing adults discussing it. The opinion that I formed from that little interaction with the information around me was that AIDS was very, very bad, and I didn't want to be around anyone that had it. Basically, fear. Later as a young adult, I recall learning that a lot of people had that same feeling, and people needed to rediscover the facts in order to know that being around people with AIDS did not mean you would absolutely automatically get the virus.

Now we, the global community, are seeing the same thing happen as the unvaccinated are treated as modern day lepers. Is the COVID-19 vaccine, or any vaccine or medical treatment or device, really the be-all and end-all? What are the facts, pros and cons? Does it have to be contentious, or can we all listen to both sides and make an educated choice for ourselves? Once again, the reason I support House Bill 248 is because I believe people should be trusted to and have the right to make the best medical choice for themselves. A vaccine, or any medical treatment or device, is not a one-size-fits-all solution. It may be the solution for many but not for all. We need to maintain our God-given rights as defined in the Constitution and Bill of Rights and protect all Ohioans from one-sided decisions.

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

Sincerely,

Amanda Fatula