

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 Carissa Fetty. I am the wife of a 3rd grade teacher, the mom of 2 adult daughters and 2 teenage sons. I have a small in-home preschool and also homeschool our sons (as of this school year). The reason I support House Bill 248 is because I have seen first hand how government medical overreach has affected the people in my life.

When we first heard that SWCSD was going to begin this school year with the hybrid model, and require masks on the days that the children were in the building, my 12 year old was already having severe anxiety about going back to school. I had planned on fighting for both of my boys to be in-person without masks, but with Dillon's anxiety, I pulled him out of the district and decided to homeschool him and continue the battle for our son, Daniel, who is in high school.

Within the first couple days of school, I had submitted an excuse for a medical mask exemption from our chiropractor. This got him through the first few days. After that they told Daniel that if he wanted to be at school he had to wear a mask. He texted me very upset and told me that they were making him put a mask on. The school didn't even contact me about this. I called the school and they told me that he was fine. He was in class. They wouldn't tell me if he was wearing a mask or not, but they said, if he was going to stay there he needed to wear it. I went and picked him up.

After 20 or more emails, an affidavit with facts about mask wearing, and religious documents for a religious mask exemption to the district assistant superintendent, the school board, principals, etc., etc., we were still denied any kind of mask exemption. They offered VLA or masked in-person learning. After a month of getting sent home every day (that he went to school mask-free), Daniel was missing many assignments, missing out on participation points, and tests. It looked like he was going to fail the first quarter...so I really had no choice but to pull him from the district and homeschool him, as well.

Our boys have both struggled this school year. It is far from normal. There is very little risk of Covid harming children, so why is the government forcing medical devices and vaccines that are not proven to be safe. Why is the government forcing students to quarantine and test for Covid to play sports or go to their events? This is wrong. This is causing mental and psychological issues.

Another quick mention of a 3rd grader in my husband's class, who has been absent many days..not just over her wearing a mask, but mostly from the anxiety it gives her to look at masked teachers and peers. My husband has been written up (by his principal) for pulling his mask down while teaching in front of the class (more than 6 feet away) to try to accommodate this little girl and others who just need to see faces.

Other reasons we are pushing for HB248, is for my preschoolers (who have never worn masks) to have a somewhat normal kindergarten year where parents have control of their own health and the health of their children and teachers have the health freedom to not get the vaccine and not wear a mask, if they so choose.

And one of the biggest reasons we need HB248 to pass is because we have a high school athlete who is trying to get a college basketball scholarship and we never want him to be forced to get a vaccine or wear a mask to go to college and play sports.

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

Sincerely,

Carissa Fetty