

Honorable 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 Bradley Fox and I am a Clinical Psychologist in the great state of Ohio and the reasons I support House Bill 248 are numerous. In brief summary, my primary concerns are as follows:

1. Classism, Segregation & Discrimination: For 1.5 years, the general public has been inundated with relentless messaging — on television, radio, social media, billboards — in every venue imaginable — their homes, workplaces, houses of worship, groceries, department stores, restaurants, and schools — and that messaging has consistently carried its own four horsemen of fear, contagion, violence, and death...with a singular salvation: government intervention and “mass vaccination.” Given the language that has been conditioned into every person consuming and accepting these sources, they are entirely likely to view, believe, and emotionally engage others according to one of two groupings:

(a) the vaccinated (who are characterized as clean, smart, science-accepting / educated, compassionate, thoughtful, and above all: safe) versus...

(b) the unvaccinated (who are characterized as unclean, ignorant, science-denying / uneducated, selfish, thoughtless, and above all: dangerous).

I heartily echo the comment by Rep. Gross that, “Many people across the state may be likely to decline vaccines like the COVID-19 vaccine for conscientious, religious, or medical reasons. Without the exemption provisions this bill provides, the notion of a vaccine passport could easily lead to a class system in Ohio where segregation and discrimination will proliferate.” In my opinion, Rep. Gross’ concern is entirely warranted. The destructive outcomes of a vaccine passport (or anything like it) will be seen from neighborhoods to shopping centers, groceries to school yards, bars to places of worship, and at most if not every workplace in the state of Ohio (especially among healthcare and educational institutions). Such is not the way to build healthy relationships, communities, or systems of care/ education. Quite the opposite.

2. The Primacy of Freedom & Individual Liberty Must Prevail: The concepts upon which this nation as well as our state were founded must be upheld as sacrosanct: Freedom, individual Liberty, the right to govern one's own body and mind, mutual respect (even when - especially when - the choices one makes are not what another may prefer for themselves), and limited government. It is indeed the role of government in a constitutional / representative republic to uphold, to guard and defend, to guarantee the Rights of the individual. It is not the place of government to dictate, create, or deny those rights.

3. Potential Abuse & Encouraging 'Herds' Rather Than Responsible Citizens: I have witnessed in my practice over the years, but especially from February 2020 to the present, the power of fear, marketing, gaslighting, and mass manipulation. I have worked with numerous survivors of mental, emotional, and physical abuse, including domestic violence over nearly three decades of clinical practice — and many of the patterns are similar. Stockholm Syndrome is a real phenomenon and can be seen all around us over the past year.

Dissenting voices are being shut down, deplatformed, marginalized, even vilified. This saddens me for the present and the future of our nation. Especially the present and future well being of the children, youth, and elder adults among our citizenry.

4a. "The Science" vs. The Scientific Method: 'Science' is a school subject, but the "scientific method" is a dynamic process, not a monolithic institution, or consensus- / poll-based activity. "Trust The Science" is a mythical truism that is insipid and simplistic. The unicorn of true science. All evidence is worth consideration. Methods should be open to critique. Results and their presentation should be open to analysis, with replicability being key. The "data" throughout this pandemic have been ill-defined, ill-recorded, ill-characterized, and often ill-reported. Intelligent citizens have been spoken "at" as if we are all in elementary school and incapable of asking solid questions or considering complex thoughts. This, combined with infantile/ childish marketing and behavior modification endeavors, was offensive on its face.

4b. Lack of Data: Despite the claims that “science says,” it must be acknowledged that there is truly and literally no long-term data regarding the efficacy or mid-range or long-term impact of the medical intervention referred to as the various COVID-19 ‘vaccinations’. I have traditionally not been against vaccinations per se, but these have not been studied with near the rigor or longevity of old-school vaccines. Thus to ‘mandate’ them or to even allow businesses (including public or private educational or healthcare institutions) to make them a direct or indirect\* condition of employment is short-sighted and will contribute to an extremely negative - perhaps even litigious - atmosphere across the state. This will impact morale, employment, opportunities for advancement, general trust, and a host of other factors that weave our social fabric.

\* by ‘indirect’, I refer to the idea that a business may state that those who are not ‘fully vaccinated’ must identify themselves as such - either to HR, a supervisor, or by wearing a policy-mandated mask, sticker, or other means - effectively forcing the employee to ‘share’ their PHI against their will.

For the above and myriad additional reasons, I strongly implore this representative body to support HB248 and to protect both the Right of individuals to determine what medical procedures occur to/in their bodies and their Right to Privacy of their personal information and health care decisions. Nothing akin to a “vaccine passport” should ever be permitted in The United States of America.

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

Sincerely,  
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Psychologist (OH License #6405)