

My name is Amy Garner. I am a mom of a 2 year old and two school aged stepchildren. I fully support House Bill 248 because the way the current climate of our state and country is going is bleak, quite frankly. We make our medical decisions in conjunction with our family doctor; not our employer, school, or the government. Mandates on any vaccinations are a violation of our freedoms and have no place in our state. Health is a personal responsibility. I am responsible for my own and my children's health while they are underage. While I care very much about my neighbors, friends, extended family, and humanity as a whole; each of them are responsible for their own health.

My husband and I each work outside of the home and our household relies on the income of both of our jobs. The VEARS reporting of the current COVID-19 vaccines (from all manufacturers) are enough reason to be cautious of taking such products - the current one and all of the others to come in the future. However, we hear daily of more places of employment mandating these vaccines every day in different manners - some are terminating employees who refuse to get inoculated while others are segregating employees in different workspaces, and perhaps most terrifying is retail establishments such as Kroger stating that employees who have been inoculated can remove masks while those who have not been inoculated cannot remove them. With many people having very strong opinions on both sides of the mask and vaccine debates, this is putting very public employees in a potentially dangerous situation, at worst. At best, it is segregation and discrimination, neither of which can be tolerated.

Our medical freedom is as important as our freedom to speech, bear arms, and believe in God. We need HB248 in order to maintain medical privacy and freedom in the state of Ohio. This Bill is incredibly important for our children's future. We don't know what is to come, but passing this bill into law will ensure that they are able to maintain employment and be able to participate in their community without segregation on the basis of medical decisions. This bill isn't about not wanting to take a current vaccination, it IS about freedom. It is in your hands as legislators to ensure our children's freedom is available to them as they become adults.

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

Sincerely,

Amy Garner