

Linda Gemmell  
Proponent Testimony HB 248

Chairman Lipps, Vice chair Holmes, ranking member Russo and members of the Ohio House of Representatives Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony regarding House Bill 248.

I listened closely to testimony by Representative Gross last week and to the subsequent questions and answer period. As Representative Gross stated this is a medical freedom bill.

I am concerned that if someone can force you to inject a liability-free foreign substance into your body for the 'greater good', what is next? Requiring mandatory sterilization, mandatory organ donation, mandatory blood donation?

Where there is risk there must be choice. The United States Supreme Court has ruled that vaccines are unavoidably unsafe ( February 22,2011).

- Representative Lipps mentioned that a grocery chain mandated masks for staff but never were seen to be wiping down the check out scanners in the store.. I would like to point out that hospitals often mandate vaccines for employees but do not require physicians to change their white coats at regular intervals. A study published in the American Journal of Infection Control 41 ( 2013) 565-7 found overall, white coats were washed every 12.4 days! Imagine doctors going room to room, leaning against dirty bedding, drains, catheters, leaning over to listen to patients heart and lungs with their stethoscopes and washing their coats this infrequently.
- Representative Cutrona stated staff had less ill calls when the flu shot was mandated. I have never seen any studies that show this outcome. However, intuitively, it does make sense. The CDC measures flu vaccine effectiveness by measuring 2 outcomes: laboratory confirmed flu illness that results in a doctors visit or hospitalization.. If the flu shot **did** work and **did** manage to reduce symptoms, it would make sense that the employee went to work 'a little sick'. But they would be unknowingly spreading germs! It would also make sense that an vaccinated employee would be unable to come to work. I look forward to reading any studies on this subject.
- Representative Lepore Hagan stated her husband was a polio survivor. Her in-laws were pleased when the polio vaccine became available for his siblings. I would like to remind everyone of the Cutter incident. In 1955, more than 200,000 children received a defective polio vaccine. Subsequent investigations revealed that 40,000 children developed polio leaving 200 children with varying degrees of paralysis and 10 children dead.
- Representative Liston stated concerns about vulnerable patients health freedom. As long as vaccine manufacturers have 100 percent liability free product we are all vulnerable. Pharmaceutical companies have no incentives to make a safer product.
- Representative Bird discussed immigration and vaccines. We have seen many images of children being separated from their families at the border. However, my dear friend was recently separated from her family. My friend can not wear a mask or be vaccinated. Her daughter became engaged in the spring of 2020. My friend and her husband put down the deposit and then paid the remaining expenses for a small intimate wedding to be held in April of 2021. No one imagined the draconian lock-downs would still be in place a year later. Many in the wedding party enjoyed meals at her home and visited with her over this past year leading up to the wedding. As the date for the wedding approached, her future son-in-law sadly informed her that she could not attend the wedding. He is a member of some type of Ohio National Guard Reserves (or perhaps Army Reserves) and felt that he had a 'higher obligation' to follow all mandates, (ignoring the exemptions). My friends only option was to watch the ceremony on a video recording.

- Vaccination is a personal health choice. Ohioans must be free to make an informed choice free of coercion. True informed consent includes the right to refuse a treatment after you have been given the information.

Sincerely,

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