

May 23, 2021

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

My name is Abigail Haidle. I'm a stay-at-home-mother to two little ones, also employed as a church music director, and a voting Ohio citizen.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to present testimony for HB 248, a bill essential to preserving freedom for the future of our state and nation. My primary reason for urging your support of this bill is because it protects from discrimination against persons based on medical status.

The false presumption that all human beings have the identical medical histories, genetic make-up, or risk factors is discrimination. For example, it is a self-evident, verifiable fact that children do not have the same level of risk of severe complications of Covid-19 as a 72 year old with diabetes. Yet, here we are urging, even coercing with the threat of social exclusion, our young teens to receive a novel treatment for a novel virus.

Is it appropriate to use the young to shield adults? Is it appropriate to require children take this risk or lose their potential to attend college, stay in school with their peers, or enter the workplace—all to potentially protect adults from an illness that primarily affects the aging population with co-existing conditions? This is inappropriate, unbalanced, and unethical.

The current media pressure is that collective vaccination, even of low-risk individuals, is to help the world avert a pending disaster. But consider the disaster of removing people's conscience rights and freedom to choose their own medical procedures and still remain secure in society as a result of their choice.

Please consider also what good health really means. Is it merely the absence of uncomfortable physical symptoms? Or does it encompass wellbeing in mind and spirit as well as the body?

The implications of medical discrimination are dire and extend beyond this current virus. We must not view fellow human beings as vessels of disease, but instead as free and unique individuals. Segregating the vaccinated from the unvaccinated is frightening discrimination and infringement of freedom of choice.

Thank you for your attention to concerns with HB 248. Should you have any questions regarding my testimony, please feel free to contact me.