

My name is Jill Hartshorn and I am a resident of Washington County, Ohio and I am submitting my testimony in SUPPORT of Ohio HB 248.

In my many years as a professional Licensed Funeral Director, Embalmer, Pre-Need Funeral Insurance Sales, Clerical/Administrative and as a Registered Nurse, I have had extensive formal and continuing education, as well as years of hands-on professional experience in science and healthcare. This has provided me with a great deal of knowledge, concerning the amazing scientific world God has created.

Healthcare decisions are very personal. A patient's risks are specific to them, as are the benefits. Even within those, each person has limitations such as insurance, cost, transportation, prescription coverage, finances, support, even educational or cultural. There are also religious beliefs that need to be considered. The ultimate decision is the patient's. This also applies to a patient's decision whether or not to receive vaccinations of any kind. It is a decision to be made by the patient, and the patient, alone. Unfortunately, many healthcare providers and worse, private businesses, have made it their business to inquire as to the reasons for not wearing a mask, or not receiving the covid shot. Worse yet, many of them have refused service to anyone not in compliance with what they have taken upon themselves to deem "acceptable", as it relates to masks or vaccination status.

The current state of healthcare is atrocious. In the last 15 months, options for my own health care have been greatly limited. There has been little progress made in any area in that time. I see numerous specialists here in our area, as well as 2 other states. It greatly offends me that there are mandates made (that are not constitutional) and yet the medical exemptions to the mandates are NOT followed. Yes, that is an unethical, pathetic excuse for any business, especially for any business that provides health services, to deny services or entry to anyone because of this. There are many medical issues that I need addressed, but have NOT been able to, because of this issue. It's not just me. Many I know and have known of, are in similar positions.

As someone who has a great deal of medical needs, and therefore, risk factors, but also a great deal of common sense, I do what is best for me. We all have a God-given right to do for ourselves what we think is best. I have two degrees based in science and those degrees, along with my experience tell me, based on real science, what is best for me. No government or business has the right to ask what my exemptions are, THOUGH, THEY ALL DO, in front of everyone, invading my privacy, and breaking HIPAA laws. Far more invasive, is having anyone asked about their vaccination status or even asked to provide documentation of that. That is absolutely unacceptable. The decisions that I made, for treatment of my cancer and other illnesses were my decision, an informed decision. I made those decisions based on research and consultations. No government or private business should dictate anyone's healthcare. As I addressed earlier, it is up to a patient's own medical team to help them determine the best course of action, based on their specific situation, at that time. These are personal medical decisions! I can't believe we are even having to address this issue in our great United States. Humiliating!

A person's vaccination status is not for government and businesses to debate, nor should it be used to unlawfully discriminate against anyone and to deny them service. It is now, and always should be, nobody else's business. Do the right thing....pass HB 248.

