

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

My name is Gina Hayward. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony for Sub HB 248.

Amy Acton first rang the alarm bells in my head when she discussed the concept of an immunity passport being “a dream.” Please explain how it’s “a dream” to be required to share my personal health information with others, be coerced to take a medical procedure that I do not want or need, and be discriminated against because of my health decision? Sounds like a nightmare to me! I find it laughable that people are claiming their “right to not get sick” when that risk has existed from the beginning of time....sickness and death have always been a certainty, actually. I’ve never walked around from day to day thinking about who I could infect with an illness, nor have I worried about possibly getting sick while going grocery shopping. It’s a part of living, people get sick and die. Are you going to avoid contact with every single human being in order to never get sick?

But what I really have a problem with is people acting as if they know better than myself regarding how to take care of mine and my children’s health. When someone goes to the doctor for a medical reason, it is their prerogative to follow the doctor’s advice or not. You are not locked in to accepting what they deem as appropriate treatment. You may sometimes feel that the treatment is too risky and not something you are willing to do, and that’s ok. Sometimes people may even go get a second opinion because they don’t like what is being recommended, and that is the beauty of medicine, getting to decide what you feel is the most appropriate treatment for YOU.

My brother served in the military and told me how he remembers getting lined up for all their vaccines. He got several at one time. Within a year he started having abnormal neurological occurrences, almost like seizures. He had no similar issues previously to when this showed up. Sometimes the episodes were pretty bad and frequent. Thankfully over time they got better and he now hasn’t had an occurrence in quite some time. As it was pointed out in sponsor testimony, when you sign up for the military, you sign up to give your life if needed, and the vaccines are part of it. It’s VOLUNTARY...you sign up for the military and are subject to the vaccines. Military experience isn’t required in order to live life. But going to a grocery store to obtain food, that’s a necessity, as well as many other things. The right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness should not be hindered by a vaccination requirement that in and of itself carries the risk of death.

Forcing any sort of medical procedure on someone in order for them to participate in society is discrimination, plain and simple. If you want to argue that no one should ever be discriminated against, then the right to refuse a vaccination should be upheld. Sub HB 248 is helpful for this, and maintains the right of an individual to make their own healthcare decisions without coercion from a third party.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written testimony.