

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 248. My name is Jason K. Hedges, and I am a practicing school psychologist with nearly 20 years' experience.

I write in support of House Bill 248 and I believe it is vital to pass an anti-discrimination act concerning bodily autonomy and freedom to choose any medical procedure including vaccinations. An individual's livelihood and right to make a living or attend any place of commerce should not be dictated by mandated medical procedures, especially those that have not undergone extensive years of rigorous safety testing and scientific scrutiny. Going further, I do not believe that informed consent is properly represented within this sector of biologics. In the United States of America, individual religious beliefs and constitutional rights should not be compromised by forced or coerced medical procedures. I believe this bill will better protect our religious, philosophical, medical, and constitutional rights.

As elected officials, it is your job to protect our rights and freedoms. It is also your job to make certain "we the people" are not discriminated against or forced into the participation of medical procedure, including vaccine passports, of any kind. You swore an oath to uphold our constitution and I am asking you to do that now. Please vote yes on HB 248. When Governor DeWine predictably vetoes this bill, I implore you to implement a swift override. Mike DeWine has wielded unmitigated economic and psychological damage to Ohio without repercussion. He has sidestepped, trampled on, and outright jettisoned our constitutional rights while peddling fear and circumventing irreparable psychological damage to Ohioans.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to provide testimony on the need for and urgency of House Bill 248. I strongly encourage you to support this bill in its entirety.

Sincerely,

Jason K. Hedges, Ed.S., NCSP