

May 23, 2021

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 Glynnis Hughes and I am currently a stay at home mom and Realtor. I support House Bill 248 for many reasons. First and foremost, everyone should have the right to choose what goes in their body without fear of discrimination or persecution.

My husband is a nurse in the Cleveland area and without HB248, his employer is already taking steps to segregate the vaccinated from unvaccinated. As a healthcare worker, my husband is well versed in reading medical literature and research, he's able to take the evidence-based information out there regarding vaccines, weigh the risk versus the benefit, and make his own INFORMED choice. Because of the actions taken by his employer, my husband is searching for a new job, which is unfortunate he feels like he has to do that, because he loves where he works and he's really good at it.

It should not be up to an employer, a school, or a politician to choose or coerce people into what goes into their body, especially when there are known, and unknown, risks.

In addition to that, after much research and discussion, we chose not to vaccinate our kids. We fear for their future. They have a right to attend schools without having to prove their vaccination status. Unfortunately, people don't take the time to understand our decision or why we chose what we did, they judge us and our kids, and occasionally treat us differently.

HB248 is very important in protecting our freedom to choose and not face discrimination or segregation. People also seem to forget that immunity can be reached by having an illness and recovering from it, that not all people will get sick, and that not all people will react well to vaccines, which is why informed consent is of utmost importance. Not bullying and coercing people into taking a medical intervention they do not want.

It's actually a pretty sad fact that we have to fight for, and even put these laws in place to protect our god given rights, but here we are.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to provide testimony on the need for and urgency of House Bill 248.

Sincerely,
Glynnis Hughes