

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 Wendy Jaqua and I am an IT professional for an insurance company. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because I believe that my personal health information and decisions are private, and this bill will keep it that way. I do not believe that an employer should be able to request my medical records to be employed or a place of business demand I have had a vaccination to be allowed access. I am not an antivaxxer, as I have had many vaccinations throughout the years, but the choice has always been mine without fear of public backlash and I would like it to stay that way.

If this bill isn't passed, I can foresee a huge divide in our state; the divide has already started! The Cleveland Browns had a "vaccinated fan zone" at the NFL draft, MetroHealth is having employees wear stickers to identify themselves as vaccinated or not vaccinated, and vaccinated people can go into certain businesses unmasked. Is this not sharing personal health information with the use of stickers, masks, and seating?

I fear for the individuals that cannot get vaccinated for other health conditions, are they going to be discriminated against for something that is out of their control?

I fear for the children whose parents choose not to vaccinate because they would like to see the long-term effects of this new, emergency use authorized, vaccine. Will they be bullied by their peers?

I fear that people will lose their jobs because they choose to not be vaccinated. Where will the unvaccinated people go for employment?

At work, we spend an enormous amount of time and money to protect our client's private information, which suddenly due to COVID, doesn't appear to be so private anymore. Where do we draw the line? Although my heart breaks for the families that lost a loved one due to COVID, we must continue to have the right to make our own health decisions and have the right to keep those decisions private.

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

Sincerely,

Wendy Jaqua