

FROM THE DESK OF

Ani Karetka

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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 Ani Karetka and I am a stay at home, homeschooling mom of 16 years in Chardon. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because choice is an innate human freedom. Whether that choice is about how and where to live, how and where to birth your children, how and where to school them, and how and what to put into their bodies and my own. All of these decisions require research, careful thought, and consultation with experts before embarking on a final route. None of these can be made through coercion or fear induced by an outside source. People are intelligent and know what they should or should not do when all the correct information is given to them. To take this ability to choose away and force someone else's agenda on them is not only wrong, but immoral. This freedom is what allows our country to be as great as it is. Once you begin movement down that slippery slope of removing rights, we end up in a whole different ideology. One where uprisings and war end up being the solution of gaining those freedoms back.

Already we see an erosion of our rights to choose what is to be injected into our bodies. Because the pandemic has been forced to take top precedence in our minds on a daily basis, talk of vaccinating has also become constant. Where vaccination used be a private decision between patient and doctor, has now been taken over by media, your neighbor, your schools and your employers. Many of them attempting to illegally mandate the unapproved experimental vaccine to everyone, regardless of age or health situation, just because it seems like everyone else is also

doing it, in spite of the existence of the Nuremberg Code of Ethics. However, just because it appears that everyone is jumping on the bandwagon, doesn't mean that it still isn't illegal, and that it is still a private matter between doctor and patient.

As an example of my own experience, as soon as the vaccine came out, my older children's school (I homeschool until 7th grade) encouraged all the teachers to get the vaccine, going as far as closing the school so the teachers could be free to get it. Though it was not "required", this could be considered a form of coercion through peer pressure. Conversely, everyone knew when the vaccine came out on the market and if they chose to look into it and opt to take it, then they should have been able to do so without the school pushing them. But these are adults and one would hope that they would have the wherewithal to stand up against coercion. But once again, when the vaccine was offered to 16 and up, the school again stepped forward, offering information via email blast on where vaccine clinics were located, something they have no business getting involved in. Whether you opted to get the vaccine was now becoming everyday talk in the classroom with social consequences for those that did not. As if high school wasn't difficult enough to maneuver socially, now this was one more thing to add to the mix. This was almost worse because with it came the shaming of why would you not protect grandma, your family, your friends. As if a 16 year old, who has a 99.97% recovery rate should take on all the risk of the experimental injection with essentially no benefit.

It is unfortunate that this bill needs to be presented. It should simply be an inalienable right to choose whether to vaccinate or not, with no fear of discrimination. But here we are. And thus, if a bill needs to be presented then there is a grave situation in front of. We need to make certain our right to choose remains in tact and that nobody is treated differently for their choice.

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

Sincerely yours,

Ani Karetka

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