

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 Susan Kelly. I am a Christian, a wife, a mother of two girls and a grandmother of 8 grandchildren. There are two important reasons I support House Bill 248. First and foremost, I want the freedom to choose whether I or my family takes a vaccine. Secondly, this bill also gives the individual the freedom to choose to wear or not wear a mask.

I believe that it is and should always be a person's right to choose to be vaccinated. I believe it is also a private matter between God, self and a trusted doctor. In such a climate of such religious, political, racial, and inequality conversations, I find it hypocritical that those choosing not to take the Covid 19 EUA vaccination are facing discrimination. My 73-year-old husband recently returned to work and faced scrutiny for not having the vaccine. Per doctor's orders he is to wait 90 days before receiving the shot because he had Covid this past April (which gives him more robust natural immunity than a vaccinated person). So now among his peers, he must wear a mask. Forcing those who do not take a shot to be marked by wearing a mask sets a horrible precedent. A shot should not be our ticket to freedom, and it is not a way that we can control our destiny. Wearing a mask should not be a punishment for not getting the shot. I am a proponent for Ohio HB 248 to protect not only my family's rights, but all Ohioans that cannot speak up for the truth.

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

Sincerely,
Meghan Doup