

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 Kara Haas and I am a public school teacher and a mother of teenage and elementary-aged children. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because medicine is not a one-size-fits-all practice.

As an educator, and a mother of a child with special needs, I know individualizing instruction is essential for children to succeed in school. I also know that the same holds true in medicine.

For example, one woman's breast cancer is not the same as every other woman's breast cancer. The best course of treatment varies greatly from one patient to another. Some need chemotherapy, some need chemo and radiation, and still others need immunotherapy. The decision for the right course of treatment resides with the individual and her physician, based on multi-factored variables like medical history, co-morbidities, and genetics.

So it seems to me that the course of treatment for Covid19 is also an individual decision made between patient and practitioner. The State has no place in deciding a universal, standardized treatment for all, especially in a day and age when we recognize the need for individual considerations and variables when it comes to all other medical interventions. Some may benefit greatly from a Covid19 vaccine. And yet others may not. Instead of mandating one course of treatment, we need to provide individuals with access to all available options that best suit their medical history, genetics and pre-existing conditions.

I understand that a Pandemic poses an unusual challenge. However, we cannot lose sight of the individual differences and nuances that create and challenge people's health. Instead of continuing this myopic, singular approach to returning to normal, we need to empower members of our community to seek the best treatment and prevention for themselves and their families.

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

Sincerely,

Kara Haas