

May 24, 2021

Written testimony for HB 248

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 Rebecca Lewis, and I am a Mom and an airline pilot, and the first reason I support House Bill 248 is the most basic reason – as human beings, first, Americans, second, , and Ohioians, third, we have an inherent right, given by God, recognized by our Constitution, to our own bodily integrity, and that of our children.

My father emigrated, here to Ohio, from Italy, when he was 14. He was a very proud American, and, almost everyday, he commented about how America is the best country in the world, specifically because of our freedom! I grew up with such a profound love and respect, and understanding of this because of him. Now, though, with the prospect of “vaccine passports”, and pressure, and coercion to receive this vaccine, from employers, from friends, and family, in some cases, and potentially, aimed at our children, now, from schools, more is needed. HB 248 is desperately needed. I cannot fathom how we got to this point.

How did I go from understanding the tremendous freedoms we have in this country, to almost being at the point now, where I am losing even have to the freedom to say no to an experimental vaccine (none of these Covid vaccines are even technically FDA approved – they are only available via Emergency Use Authorization)!?!? It might be different, it might be ok if there was a way to guarantee that I could receive this – or any injection – and then 100% “un-receive” it. It might be ok if someone or some therapy could completely eradicate the vaccine out of my body if I changed my mind, and return my body to the exact condition it was in prior to having received it. But, we all know that this is not possible. Therefore, any pressure, coercion, mandate, practice, or law that has the effect of getting our citizen in the state of Ohio vaccinated against their will, or punishes them via job loss, or being unable to fully participate in normal, everyday public life, and activities needs to be removed. There is simply no room - no moral, or legal rationale, whatsoever, for submitting our citizens to any scenario of being pressured or coerced, or threatened into getting a vaccine, any vaccine. It is repugnant to me that I actually need to spend the time discussing this, and fighting for this very basic right to protect against this pressure. It should be obvious that it is illegal and immoral to try to force vaccines on anyone. It should be so obvious that there shouldn't be any group, organization, or political power even attempting it. How on earth have we gotten here?!? Its unfathomable. Its unthinkable.

Beyond the basic, what should be “hit-you-over-the-head” obvious issue of human, and American freedom, I actually just encountered a much more time-critical, pressing reason that HB 248 is needed. Very inexplicably, and shockingly, I was just informed in the last couple of weeks that my 4 year old son, who is registered to begin attending a private preschool in the Fall, will now suddenly, not be welcomed into that class unless he is fully vaccinated!! Obviously, the experimental Covid vaccines do not yet have even Emergency Use Authorization for very young children, but our preschool teacher was talking about all the other “traditional” vaccines. Somehow, this teacher, who we loved, who my son was getting excited to get to know, and already looking forward, in his own little way, to being in her class, somehow she just decided that now vaccines will be required, with no exemptions honored. I did not think, and am still not sure that this is legal under the current Ohio vaccine exemption laws. We had our daughter, several years ago, attend this same preschool, with this same teacher, being exempted from her vaccines per the applicable Ohio state laws, with no issues. Now, that apparently has changed!! Well, from my understanding, HB 248 would tighten up these exemption laws, and allow my son to attend preschool this Fall, without us having to vaccinate him, against our very sincerely held beliefs, and desires surrounding this issue. We need HB 248 immediately! I want my son to be able to attend this preschool, without our parental rights to decide his medical care being infringed on in any way!! We literally don’t have time for this bill to sit around, to be bounced back and forth through committees, and never-ending hearings, etc, etc, etc. Please, please, please pass this bill now!

Of course, opponents to this bill will argue that they are worried about others’ health. That is reasonable. No one want to put anyone’s health in jeopardy, not our own, our own family’s, or anyone in the larger community. But, I think we are truly starting to understand the real science behind viruses, bacteria, infections, herd immunity, etc, now. Especially after the past year of this virus. The solid, scientific truth is – masks do not work against viruses. Vaccines, of any kind, are mostly unnecessary, and generally, inherently, dangerous, not helpful. So much of what we thought we always knew about vaccines “saving” us from diseases like Polio, and Smallpox, etc, etc, is, unfortunately, untrue, and unscientific. The truth has been obscured, and manipulated, at best. Many excellent doctors, researchers, and scientists know this, and have written and spoken about it for decades. Unfortunately, they are often censored, and marginalized.

We have many, many ways that we can strengthen our immune systems naturally, and safely, and ward off colds, flus, and viruses. Again, many brilliant doctors, researchers, and scientists know about, and have written, and spoken about this for decades. Among these methods are – sufficient sleep, exercise, sunlight, fresh air, good nutrition, vitamin D, and C supplementation, zinc, iodine, magnesium, countless different herbs, teas, tinctures, essential oils, hydroxychloroquine, Ivermectin, on and on, and on. The list is likely almost endless. This is the truth. This is scientific. And many of us know this, because we actually practice many of these things, ourselves, already! However, our mainstream media, and

mainstream medicine, many of our own doctors, our health agencies, at large, won't admit to these things, or give us any information, or lend much, if any, legitimacy to them because they have an agenda to only support pharmaceutical products, and in some cases, they actually cannot – due to awful, immoral “legal” reasons!! This is the sad, crazy, hard truth.

Now, is everything “pharmaceutical” bad? Absolutely not! Our pharmaceutical industry has given us countless necessary therapies, and drugs that save lives, reduce pain, and stand in the gap between different health issues that unfortunately pop up in our lives, and us regaining, hopefully, our previous robust health. I have used, and have benefitted from, and am grateful for many of these things in my own life! The truth is, though, we all need to recognize - and the sooner, the better - that we need to start taking care of our health in ways that are mostly natural. We need to stop relying so heavily on invasive, dangerous vaccines, and years' long dependencies on pharmaceutical drugs, and procedures as a substitute for real, actual health. If, and hopefully – when- we get to this point, then this constant, maddening, insane issue of pressuring or mandating artificial vaccines on our population, will go away, as a matter of course.

Unfortunately, we are not yet at that point in our society, as a whole. Because of this reality, we need bills like HB 248 to stand in the gap, protecting us all from the overreach of people or entities that would impose their mandates, and their invasive, undesired health practices on us and our children. The choice has to be left to the individual, always, as to what they decide to do with their own health, and that of their families. If you want a vaccine, as long as they do not simultaneously harm others, that is perfectly fine, you can, and should be allowed to take the vaccine, and be respected for making that choice. If you don't want it, that should also be perfectly fine, you simply don't take it – no reprisals, no disrespect, no restrictions on any of your freedoms, and no punishments, or losses, whatsoever, for making that choice. Period. It is very simple. It all boils down to personal freedom. And there is nothing more “personal” than your health. And there is no possible freedom more foundational than the freedom to secure our very own, and our children's bodies, and decide, completely without pressure, what is done to them.

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

Sincerely,

Rebecca Lewis