

May 23, 2021

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chairman 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 Mary Marshall. I am a registered nurse (for 35 years), and am in private practice as a health educator and health coach. I support House Bill 248 for multiple reasons.

First, I believe our health is arguably one of our most precious assets. It has been demonstrated that people who are in control of their health decisions have better health outcomes. Any health procedure or intervention poses inherent risk, even vaccines. Adults and parents of minor children should have choice, informed choice over anything that impacts their health and well-being.

The right to earn a living, to shop for groceries, to go out for entertainment should not be dependent on vaccine status, and NO ONE should be permitted to ask for health information to grant another access to these same activities. When working for various healthcare institutions, HIPPA was drilled into our heads, yearly trainings on it were required, threats of massive fines to the institution for a HIPPA violation were of great concern. Now in the private sector, in "Coved-land" our right to privacy has been thrown out the window! For a virus with a 99.98% recovery rate for most people, this is beyond unacceptable.

I have worked to help people heal, to help keep them well for most of my life. I am heartsick over what I see transpiring. The threat to a free state, a free country-is frightening to me. I am exhausted from worry over it. I don't feel like I live in a state, or a republic-but in Mike DeWine's personal little empire. I have no confidence in his regard for the people he is supposed to be SERVING (not ruling)

I practice something referred to as "Informed Healthcare Decision Making", and I teach others to practice it as well. It is my right and my responsibility. I am asking for your help in protecting that right. Please.

I am also a mother, of 3 wonderful grown children. One is in Ohio, and is an RN as well. I fear for his life. He worked so hard to graduate last year with a 4.0 from college and to pass his nursing boards. He is working in Columbus-and is a bright, beautiful, compassionate nurse. But I have encouraged him that if the covid vaccine is mandated, that he should leave his beloved profession. Influenza vaccine mandates were a big part of why I left active nursing. It is criminal to put our frontline workers in a position of possibly losing their health just to maintain employment. And now this is threatening to extend to all manner of employment. Again, ALL vaccines (even those licensed by the FDA) are inherently unsafe-that is why vaccine manufacturers (and the government, with covid vaccines) demanded exemption from all liability.

My other two children live out of state. I worry that a time may come when I will never be able to see them again. Or my siblings, and extended family who also live out of state. Will we need to be vaccinated to leave the state? Stay in a hotel? Come back? All of this is preposterous.

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

Mary Marshall, New Philadelphia OH