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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 this written proponent testimony on House Bill 248. My name is Patti McCormick, and I am a Registered Nurse who specializes in 2 models of Health Care - 1) Holistic Health Education and 2) Infection Control. The reason I support House Bill 248 is very personal - medical and philosophical.

After I received the immunizations required for Nursing School in 1973, I developed a condition called Idiopathic Thrombocytopenia - meaning extremely low platelets with no underlying cause. For several years afterwards, each time I received the influenza vaccination, my platelets would drop. Two physicians shared their medical opinion that I should NEVER take vaccinations again. I have not received any vaccination for over 30 years. There is double blind evidence based medical research to support how my body reacts to a vaccination.

The issue - I also work as an Infection Prevention Nurse in medical facilities. Other times, I serve as the Clinical Instructor for our Holistic Health Students in medical settings. I refuse all vaccinations with a medical exemption. In many situations, I have been forced to wear a mask from October 1 through March 31 (influenza season) while working. I have received threats of termination. Just last week, I stood in front of a fellow RN having to share that I did not take the Covid vaccination and proceeded to experience discrimination through her tirade of how anyone who does not vaccinate is ignorant of science and has no concern for others. This happens on MANY occasions. Fortunately, at 66 years of age, I am "seasoned" and have my science-based rebuttals.

The irony is that those of us in Health Care spend hours training in HIPAA yet are forced to answer personal questions concerning vaccinations. Our freedoms are being violated. No place of employment has the right to force vaccination and ask these questions. Vaccination should be a choice not a mandate. Damage from vaccinations cannot be undone - I am proof of that!

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

Sincerely,
Patti McCormick, RN