

May 27,2021

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 Jacqueline McCormick and I am a stay at home mom of three and the reason I support House Bill 248 is because my daughter was injured by a vaccination and cannot have the Covid19 vaccination or any other vaccination without risking kidney failure and death. This bill will secure her medical exemptions for school and work and keep her from discrimination due to her health issues.

She was 5 yrs old and had the MMR vaccine that many others have with no issues but for her it created a lifelong health threat. It started with a rash over her whole body that looked like she was covered in bruises. Her urine was dark blood because her kidneys were leaking blood and protein and she was on the verge of renal failure. This went on for a month. Her joints were swollen and she couldn't walk for 2 weeks. She lost control of her bladder. She was fatigued and had stomachaches accompanied by headaches and threw up for a full year!

Now 7 yrs later she still has bladder issues and chronic swollen painful joints not to mention the ever-looming threat of kidney involvement every time she gets sick. She CANNOT have any vaccines! She was diagnosed with Henoch-Schonlein purpura (HSP). This disease has been added to the MMR vaccine side effects list only after years of many parents with HSP children fighting in court to have it added.

Vaccines are not safe for everyone! All humans are different and all vaccines have side effects. None of them are safe for everyone. To require a person to receive something that could be harmful to their health in order to have everyday life experiences and opportunities that others who take the vaccine enjoy, is unconscionable.

My brother-in-law also cannot take vaccines. He was diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome in his twenties. He has been advised that vaccines could cause him physical damage. So I actually have two family members who legitimately need medical exemptions from vaccinations to live healthy lives. Just imagine how many more people in Ohio also need medical exemptions and protection from discrimination of businesses and schools.

There are no medical procedures, medications, or vaccinations in the world today that are 100% safe for everyone. It simply isn't possible with the complexity of the human body and the myriad of issues any one individual could have at any given time throughout their life. Therefore we should, in all circumstances, have the right to choose what we do in regards to our health care and never be forced into anything that could be harmful.

We also should not be discriminated against for our health choices. My family has fought through some major health issues. Do they now deserve to be turned away from school or job opportunities because they cannot take a medical procedure that could harm them. This would be cruel and unusual punishment.

I beg of you, for my family and many others, please pass HB248. You need to protect our medical freedoms or many of us will need to move to a state that does.

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

Sincerely,

Jacqueline McCormick