

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 Michele Meyers, and I am mom and freelance writer. I have a master's degree in library science and an undergraduate degree in English. My husband has a degree in applied mathematics and is an executive in the technology sector at a mid-sized company. He has been employed by the same company for 14 years and has worked hard to advance to his current role at this company. Although the official policy at the company is not to mandate the COVID vaccine for all employees, my husband is being pressured by his boss and feels that his job will be in jeopardy if he does not agree to take the vaccine. To make matters worse, he has a non-compete clause in his contract which prevents him from leaving to find another job in the industry in which he has expertise.

I believe that the choice to take the COVID vaccine should be a personal medical decision. The significant number of deaths and adverse events reported in VAERS suggest that the vaccines are not universally safe for everyone. In addition to the immediate risk, because there have been no long-term studies of these vaccines, there is no way to know what the long-term effects might be. No medical treatment is one-size fits all. Every individual should have the right to make a personal choice based on his/her own individual health status and conscience. Employers and other public and private entities should not be able to discriminate based on these personal medical decisions.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to provide testimony on the need for and urgency of House Bill 248. I hope that this legislation can be moved forward quickly, since this is a time-sensitive matter, and the livelihoods of individuals and families hang in the balance.

Sincerely,

Michele Meyers