

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 Sarah Mienko and I am a Registered Nurse and I would like to provide written testimony of the reason I support House Bill 248 and why we need this bill in place. As previously stated, I am a Registered Nurse and I work in the field of labor and delivery. This is where and when the health of a new life begins needing protected. It is commonplace for women to receive the flu and Tdap during pregnancy, as well as mothers are encouraged to administer Vitamin K and Hepatitis B shortly after birth. The flu and the Tdap have never been tested on pregnant women with data supporting that it is safe to the unborn child. There are numerous reported fetal demise cases following administration of the flu and Tdap Vaccines, yet we continue to tell women that they are safe and that they should take these injections to protect their baby. These women are not provided with vaccine inserts and side effects prior to administration, and most just follow along with the recommendation from their health care provider, but some individuals choose to research and educate themselves prior to injecting themselves and their unborn child with known toxins. Having House Bill 248 in place would allow all women to be able to choose what they inject into their body and subsequently their unborn child. This is also beginning to apply to the new Covid vaccine as well, as it has started being administered to pregnant women. While we currently have the choice in Ohio to let these women choose whether or not to vaccinate themselves against Covid, we are seeing a push for vaccine passports and discrimination against those who choose not to take an experimental vaccine by enforcing masks for unvaccinated or denying services to someone who is

unvaccinated. This is wrong in every way is removing the autonomy a person is entitled to over their private and protected health information. The passage of House Bill 248 is critical to Ohioans now more than ever and the citizens of Ohio deserve to have exemptions to opt out of any vaccine they choose without repercussions including segregation and discrimination.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 248 and I encourage you and the rest of the committee to understand the need and urgency for this bill to protect Ohioans and their medical freedoms.

Sincerely,

Sarah Mienko, RN, BSN, C-EFM