

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 Kathleen Milchak and I am a stay at home mom. I support HB 248 because the issues of health care freedom, bodily autonomy, healthcare privacy, and protection from discrimination regarding personal health care choices are the most important issues to myself and my family, surpassing all others. Without these rights, we are no longer a free people.

I am concerned for all Ohioans, but specifically for my young adult children, who like others, have spent their hard-earned money on a college education here in Ohio and our entering (and have entered) the workforce. They should have the freedoms to not be coerced, discriminated against, and especially not forced to accept a medical intervention, with unknown long term safety data, that can and will affect their health in some way, potentially seriously or even fatally, in order to keep a job, get hired for a job, enjoy a career, and participate in society.

I am also concerned for others, and one example is the elderly population, specifically my parents (in-laws). Every life is important, and the quality of life of every person is just as important. An example being my 81 and 82 year-old in-laws. A forced vaccine would take away their lives in a different way. Both are vibrant, healthy, and active people. Both have had Covid disease, and recovered. In their older years, and pre-Covid, my father in law has had and recovered from prostate cancer and a heart attack. My mother-in-law has had and recovered from cancer. Both of them have no plans to receive the Covid vaccine for reasons of their own and one obviously being that they have had the virus, the disease, and now have antibodies. They enjoy an active lifestyle that includes dining out, enjoying casinos, vacations, time with family, activities with their church, and more. Will they be cut off from living the lives they enjoy based on their decision to vaccinate? That should not happen in a free country.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the need for and the urgency of HB248.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Milchak