

5/23/2021

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Honorable Members of the House Health Committee,

My name is Mia. I reside here in Central Ohio and thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony regarding Sub House Bill 248.

The idea that we may someday be forced to show personal and confidential medical information to participate in society concerns me immensely. It is actually quite alarming to me. I feel my medical decisions are my own and utterly confidential pieces of information that belong in a file at my doctor's office and not in an app on my phone to be shown in order to enter a store, the post office, bank, BMV, board an airplane, or to get help at a hospital. This would be a terrible invasion of my privacy and create a medically segregated society as not every person can take every kind of medical treatment for a variety of medical reasons including allergies and other conditions.

And medical reasons are not the only reason someone may not be able to take a medical treatment. There are religious beliefs, including my own, that preclude me from taking certain medicines as well as those that conscientiously object to certain medical care due to their own philosophical beliefs and again, I believe, would lead to medical segregation and discrimination. Segregation and discrimination would not benefit people nor the economy; when has it ever? I am not aware of any time in history that either segregation or discrimination were beneficial to a state and its citizens.

Two of my family members were adversely affected by aspirin, leading to bleeding ulcers, a blood transfusion in one, and both required hospital stays. Many people take aspirin without any problems but it can be devastating to others. This is just one example of how different medications can affect people differently and how important knowing the risks and potential adverse reactions are to patients before starting any treatment.

I think most of us have heard friends or family say things like "Only Ibuprofen works when I get a headache" whereas others swear by Tylenol. What works for one person may not work for another. *Medicine really isn't, nor should it ever be, one size fits all.*

Regarding the covid-19 shot specifically, I have met several individuals that told me the reactions they experienced after their second dose caused them terrible flu like symptoms. One shared that it was so bad that she is not sure others her age would have made it through what she went through.

There are 3,338 deaths reported on the Vaccine Adverse Event and Reporting System (VAERS) related to the covid-19 shot and I have read “fewer than 1% of vaccine adverse events are reported” from *Electronic Support for Public Health–Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (ESP:VAERS)*, viewable online at

<https://digital.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/docs/publication/r18hs017045-lazarus-final-report-2011.pdf> If this is true and we do the math, this could mean there have been approximately 300,000 deaths as a result of the covid-19 shot alone and not including deaths from other vaccines, medicines, or other medical treatments.

During the announcements of why we needed to stay home in the spring of 2020, I remember thinking we were being asked to stay home to save lives. I am asking those reading my testimony to consider the losses of life reported on VAERS. We cannot ignore these deaths. Each person should be permitted to look at the risks of not taking a medicine as well as the risks of taking it and decide which course of action is right for them.

There is great fear of these so called “immunity passports” coming to Ohio. It comes up in discussions at the playground, while our children are taking their music lessons, and even with people we happen to meet while out hiking. It’s clearly on the minds and hearts of many Ohioans. I don’t know anyone that wants digital or paper health passports and this includes feedback I have received from many people that have taken the covid-19 shot. One person expressed that she took it this time but she doesn’t want to be forced to do so in the future and that it should be optional. The idea of ‘health passports’ potentially coming to Ohio is actually in my opinion, causing a lot of anxiety.

In fact, many friends of mine are considering moving out of Ohio should health passports come here. I am a lifelong Ohioan and am saddened at the thought of moving but freedom and civil liberties are vitally important to our family. I want to raise my children in a place I feel free to calculate my own risks and decide what’s best for myself and my children without the government or businesses interfering or intruding upon our vaccination medical decisions here in the Buckeye State.

HB 248 would provide me peace of mind in knowing that my medical decisions related to vaccines are solely mine to make without the influence of businesses or government. I believe this bill will permit my health decisions to be kept between my doctor and I, where I think they should be kept. And I believe this bill would also prevent medical discrimination in the workplace or public square.

Thank you for your time, your service, and for the opportunity to share my testimony with you today.

Sincerely,

Mia