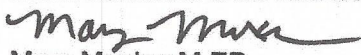


I am writing today to voice my support for HB 248. My husband and I moved our family of 5 from California to Ohio in 2012. We left behind parents, siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins. We had no family in Ohio. At the time our children were in first, third and fifth grade. We made this monumental decision for 2 main reasons. Number one, we were becoming increasingly concerned that we would lose our right to claim a religious and person exemption to vaccines for our children. Number two, we lived in an area that had an amazing elementary school but once our kids reached sixth grade they would go to a middle school and high school that were not high performing schools.

Our first reason is the primary motivation for writing today. Our middle child was given 6 vaccines at one time when he was 18 months old. He had a fever and swollen leg that night but was told this was to be expected. A few weeks later he began having bouts of chronic diarrhea and constipation. He would have hot liquid bowel movements but I was told this was nothing to be concerned about. He stopped babbling, stopped responding to his name being called and started spinning in circles. By the time he was 24 months old he was diagnosed with autism.

Fast forward 16 years. My son just graduated from high school this weekend and plans to attend Kent State University in the fall. We spent tens of thousands of dollars from ages 2-5 to help his body and neurological system heal. He did 30+ hours for years. In kindergarten - second grade he had to come home after 3 hours of school because his sensory system was so unregulated. For 8 years he wore a hat all day, every day and even when he slept because his sensory system was so unregulated. He did not make his first friend until 10th grade.

Because of the adverse reaction he had as an 18 month old, we are not willing to take the chance that his body will handle the Covid 19 vaccine, especially when it is in the emergency use phase. I implore you to please pass HB 248 to protect my son. We have sacrificed so much for him and he has worked so hard. He is worth fighting for!



Mary Moxley M.ED.

Mom

Teacher, Curriculum Development, Behavior Specialist