

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 Ashley O'Diam and I am an educator. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because I have witnessed firsthand the negative side effects of the restrictions and mandates from the past year. Now the government has decided to add another in the form of an injection. I am fighting for medical freedom for myself, my family, and my students. While I fully believe in the importance of this bill in its entirety, I would like to make special note of several sections. The Transparency section of this amended bill supports notifying parents of the available exemptions, which parents often do not know exist. It is extremely important that parents/caregivers are not bullied into thinking that they are required to allow their child to be injected with something that they do not agree with or think is unsafe, just so their child is allowed their **free appropriate public education**.

Protect Vaccine Choice: If employers are allowed to require this injection, people are then forced to choose between providing for their family or being used as a test subject for a medical procedure where the end results are still unknown. We must be allowed autonomy over our own body. Where there is risk, and there are documented side effects to this injection, there absolutely must be a choice.

Prohibiting Discrimination: In my classroom I teach students about respect, love, and inclusion. For weeks at the beginning of every year we practice building our classroom community so that my students have an environment where they are welcomed by *everyone*. How can we now teach them that someone who chooses not to be a test subject for an experiment is somehow “bad”, “wrong” or “unclean”? When Gov. DeWine allowed only vaccinated Ohioans to go mask free, he put a scarlet “A” on those who declined to receive or were not able to get the injection for health reasons. Now they stand out to the rest of the public and are perceived as less than. That is morally wrong and discriminatory. I remember learning about another time in history when a specific group of people were made to wear a badge so others would know exactly who they were and why they were hated by society. We ought to learn from history so it is not repeated.

Provide Legal Recourse for Violations: When/if an employer decides to go against this bill and threaten to require their employees to be injected, they must be met with appropriate legal ramifications. This bill supports that and in turn gives extra protection to employees.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to provide testimony on the need for and urgency of House Bill 248.

Sincerely,

Ashley O'Diam