

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 Pamela K. Patterson. I am a retired, 70 year old woman, who finds pleasure in helping my legally blind husband, and the reason I support House Bill 248 is because: I have a form of leukemia, CLL, which I have had for over 15 years. I have seen the same hemotologist/oncologist for that entire time. With this form of leukemia, I have to go in every 2-3 months for blood work. There have been times when my counts have been bad enough that I've needed treatment. I also have to watch my immune system numbers, so they monitor that as well. Last week I went in for the bloodwork, and after being asked the normal questions of "do you have any symptoms"...NO, "have you been around anyone who has tested positive in the last couple weeks"...NO, they then asked if I had the vaccination. When I said no, his whole demeanor changed. I was treated rudely and he acted like I was a leper. I was reprimanded and told "DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY CANCER PATIENTS DIE FROM COVID??!" When I said, unfortunately, I'm sure that is true, but I also know people have died from this vaccination. He rudely walked over to the copy machine, pulled the orders off of it and handed them to me and said, "here you are...you'll have to go someplace else!!" I understand that this doctor has to look out for her cancer and immune compromised patients...but I am one of them! I react to treatments differently than most, so I am not ready to put that experimental vaccination in my body, and I believe that should be my right. I would be willing to be tested, wear a mask, have my temperature checked, put me in a separate room, or anything to protect her other patients (although I'm the one that would need to be protected since they are all vaccinated), but I was not given that option. I wrote her a letter and said I would be happy to discuss this with her, but have heard nothing. Now..after 15 years, I have to find a new doctor who knows none of my history and how I react to things. Please pass this bill that protects our rights and prevents this from happening.

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

Sincerely,
Pamela K. Patterson