

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 Andrea Rhoden and I am a stay at home wife and mother and I support House Bill 248 because vaccine choice and medical freedom are absolutely necessary for our country to remain free.

I have a child who had a severe vaccine reaction as an infant. There's nothing like watching your small infant seize multiple times and be unable to help your baby. I thought I was being a good mother by protecting my child through vaccinating them with the dTAP vaccine. Although our pediatrician was strongly convincing, my mama heart was reluctantly following the recommendations of our pressuring pediatrician. I was feeling coerced to vaccinate at every well baby visit appointment. Despite varying from the traditional schedule by delaying my child's first injection and only choosing 1 vaccine at a time, we still witnessed an incredibly horrible response. Later learning of food allergies (peanut and egg allergies due to use of peanut oil and egg in vaccines), learning challenges, social and emotional delays, and poor brain/body connection. My firstborn didn't benefit from the vaccine...only the pediatrician did.
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Since my first child had a very strong negative reaction to a vaccine (even though delayed and spaced - getting one at a time) my other children would likely have similar responses and therefore I will not take that risk. Being forced to vaccinate my children after a significant negative reaction could be extremely detrimental and even deadly.

As a professional in the field of pediatric occupational therapy, so many children on my caseload had developmental challenges that were likely connected to vaccine injury. The parents of those children were desperate for help. Like me, they too did what they were told was right. By vaccinating their children, they suffered significant consequences and irreversible damage. Now I know. When there is any risk, even .01%, there needs to be a choice.

I'm raising my children. The government is not. I take full personal responsibility for myself and my children. The government doesn't truly care about our well-being. I'm not willing to hand over the privilege of parenting to anyone else. It's my job. I take full responsibility for my children and don't desire for any other person or organization to make parenting decisions for me or my husband. Parents faithfully and diligently seek to prioritize the best interest of their children and should have 100% choice in all matters pertaining to their health and well-being. Our number one job as parents is to love our children well...one way we do that is by protecting them from harm.

As a Christian, I am pro-life. It would go against my faith and my God to inject aborted fetal cell lines into my body or the bodies of my children. It would go against my strong beliefs if I were to support vaccination in any way knowing what I know about their production and the documented use of aborted babies. I will not vaccinate for this reason. Even if I wasn't pro-life, I wouldn't trust a product that hasn't undergone extensive long term research studies. It is questionable and unethical to mandate a vaccine

when it is still in emergency use. In essence by not respecting medical freedom and instead mandating vaccination, the general population are test subjects to something not yet proven to be safe and/or effective. I do not consent to being part of this research study. Even if my faith wasn't most important in my life, I still wouldn't inject known toxic, poisonous, carcinogenic ingredients into my body so you can be sure I will not consent to these proven unsafe ingredients being injected into my children. I've already successfully received natural immunity from Covid 19 since I had the virus last fall. I don't need a vaccine.

Our founding fathers as well as all men and women who have fought for our country's freedoms would be appalled at the idea of the possibility of our medical freedoms being stripped. It goes against our Constitution.

We need vaccine choice and medical freedom. Every American should have access to the truth and make an informed decision. All Americans should absolutely have the liberty to make their own decisions about how they choose to care for their bodies. It is simply not the government's place to make these decisions. Every individual should be granted personal choice and respected no matter what decision they make when it comes to vaccination, for or against. I'm not anti-vaccine, I'm pro safe vaccine. So until a vaccine is proven completely safe and effective I demand a choice. I won't ever shame anyone who has chosen any vaccine because they decided it was best for them. I want the same respect. Honestly, if/when a vaccine is proven to be fully effective, why should it matter to a vaccinated person if some choose not to vaccinate? Aren't they protected? The healthy unvaccinated person is not a threat.

Medical freedom isn't only about vaccines, it's about autonomy. Medical freedom is also about so many choices...

choice in how to give birth, use supplements and herbs, alternative treatments for cancer, alternative treatments for psychological diagnoses, it's about being able to fully support your child's health how you want, it's about collaboration with medical providers versus hierarchy. It's about being autonomous! Mandating vaccination will only lead to more government control of other things the government has NO place being involved.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to provide testimony on the need for and urgency of House Bill 248. Thank you so much for your time. YES to HB 248. I fully support House Bill 248 and pray you do too.

Sincerely,

Andrea Rhoden